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FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE OF
HERMAN MELVILLE

1830-1904

(Concluded)

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO SUSAN (MRS. PETER)
GANSEVOORT

Aunt Susan,
I have been hoping to be able to go and see you, but my persistent neuralgia &
illness have kept me housed since last Thursday — please tell Uncle with my
love that I shall make it my first object when I go out again — I hope you will be
in the city for some time yet —
The girls were much disappointed when the rain came down last Saturday, and
prevented them from accepting your kind invitation — Herman says he will go
with them next Saturday morning & take the chance of finding you in, (or they
go alone) but you must not let it interfere with any other engagements you
may have —
If you see Herman, please do not tell him that I said he was *not well* — but if
you think he looks well, I hope you will tell him so — If Kate finds herself in our
neighborhood, she must look in and see me at any hour.
I am hoping that Uncle is improving in health again

Believe me affectionately

Aug 18 [1869]⁵²

Your niece

104 East 26 St.

E. S. Melville

This date has been supplied by the aid of Mrs. Abraham Lansing's diary of 1869.

MELVILLE TO HIS MOTHER⁵³

New York, May 5, '70

My Dear Mamma :

As you express a wish in your last letter dated the 2nd inst. to hear from me again before you leave Albany, I accordingly write this ; and that you may be satisfied that I have not been dilatory about the portrait, I will say that I have already had two sittings, and it is getting on.

We have not heard from Stanwix since receiving his London letter in February, but are daily in expectation of one, tho' boy-like he may not think how anxiously we await it.

The other day I visited out of curiosity the GANSEVOORT HOTEL, corner of "Little twelfth Street" and West Street. I bought a paper of tobacco by way of introducing myself : Then I said to the person who served me : "Can you tell me what this word 'Gansevoort' means? is it the name of a man? and if so, who was this Gansevoort?" Thereupon a solemn gentleman at a remote table spoke up : "Sir," said he, putting down his newspaper, "this hotel and the street of the same name are called after a very rich family who in old times owned a great deal of property hereabouts." The dense ignorance of this solemn gentleman, — his knowing nothing of the hero of Fort Stanwix, aroused such an indignation in my breast, that disdaining to enlighten his benighted soul, I left the place without further colloquy. Repairing to the philosophic privacy of the District Office, I then moralized upon the instability of human glory and the evanescence of — many other things.

Lizzie and the girls are well, and for some time past have devoted themselves to the shrine of Fashion, engaged in getting up the unaccountable phenomina and wonderful circumferential illusions which in these extraordinary days invest the figure of lovely woman. — I am called away and must close.

My remembrances to Uncle Peter, Aunt Susan, the superb Kate and the benignant Lansing;⁵⁴ and believe me

Affectionately Your Son,

Herman.

⁵³ This letter was written by Herman Melville to his mother, Maria Gansevoort Melville, and is printed here from a copy made May 15, 1870, by John C. Hoadley.

⁵⁴ Abraham Lansing. He was born on February 27, 1835, in Albany; graduated from Albany Boys Academy, 1851; from Williams College, 1855, and from Albany Law School, 1857. He was city attorney of Albany in 1868; became State treasurer in 1874, and in 1876 was corporation counsel of Albany. In 1882 he was a State senator. From 1876 until his death at Albany, on October 4, 1899, he held trusteeships in the Albany Savings Bank, the Albany Boys Academy, the Albany Hospital, the Albany Medical College, etc.

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT (MRS. LANSING)

104 E. 26th St.⁵⁵

Dear Kate:

May 29th, [1870?] 4 P. M.

Cousin Herman and Cousin Lizzie" will be very glad indeed to have you stay with them so long as you please. We shall be a little crowded, but, on these occasions, the more the merrier, you know.

We have just brought mama on from the H. R. R. R. Depot. She told me about her plans for coming down &c, so I hasten to despatch this note.

My affectionate remembrances to Uncle Peter & Aunt Susan.

We shall count on having you with us.

Cousin

Herman.

MELVILLE TO PETER GANSEVOORT

Dear Uncle:

New York, June 12, '70

On a visit to the Harbor the other day, Tom⁵⁶ handed me a handsomely painted carving of the Hero of Fort Stanwix,⁵⁷ saying that he was acting upon your request & that I was to regard it as a gift from Uncle Peter. — I write this to you my acknowledgments for your kindness, and to say how much I prize it.

Tom and his wife are both well, and their place is looking beautifully at this season.

He told me of the proposed visit of Fanny and Cousin Kate. When do they leave? I trust that Tom will not wholly imprison them in his Paradise, but will admit the people of 26th St to have a share of their company.

My kindest remembrances to Aunt Susan & Kate, and best regards to the boys,

And Believe me

Sincerely yours

H. Melville

The residence Melville secured for his family when they removed to the city of New York from the field.

His brother Capt. Thomas Melville (b. 1830; d. 1883), who was living on Staten Island, as the Harbor of Sailor's Snug Harbor, an honorable post he held sixteen years, until his death. A monument on the grounds, by Randall, was unveiled in his memory on May 30, 1884.

Colonel Peter Gansevoort, Jr. The fort's correct name was, during Gansevoort's connection with it, Fort Schuyler. It had its origin in the last colonial war when it was named Fort Stanwix; but during the American Revolution the records, muster rolls, and correspondence of its commanders almost uniformly employ the name "Schuyler." Colonel Gansevoort was known as "junior," but his son did not use that appellation. Colonel Gansevoort was born in Albany in July, 1749. He was with General Montgomery on the Canadian expedition in 1775; became colonel of the Third New York Regiment of the line in 1777; was in General Sullivan's expedition of 1779; from March 26, 1781, till the close of the war was a brigadier-general in the militia of New York. He was made sheriff of Albany in 1802; in 1802 he became military agent of the northern department, and in February, 1809, he was promoted a brigadier-general in the United States army. He died at Albany on July 2, 1812.

MELVILLE TO SUSAN (MRS. PETER) GANSEVOORT

New York Jan. 15, '71.

My Dear Aunt Susan:

When Henry⁵⁸ left here I gave him a note of introduction to Mrs. Gifford, cousin of Lizzie's now spending the winter at Nassau for her health. She has very kindly written me in reply.

I enclose the letter to you. I felt some reluctance in so doing until Allan happened to inform me this evening of Abraham Lansing's leaving here for Havana, and that you had heard so favorable things of Henry from some passenger in the last steamer from Nassau. — I write in much haste to secure the delivery of this at the general Post Office to night.

With very best remembrances to Uncle Peter in which Lizzie & the rest unite

Believe me

Sincerely

H. Melville

MELVILLE TO PETER GANSEVOORT

New York

470 West St.

Day after Christmas, 1871

My dear Uncle:

I write at my office, so you must excuse the paper; it is the best I happen to have at hand here.

Augusta tells me that during her late visit in Washington Avenue⁵⁹ you kindly enquired after me, asked why I did not come to see you, and also expressed a desire that I should write you.

About not coming to see you. — I am only allowed two weeks' vacation. This I take in the summer; and last summer I spent it, for a change, at North Conway,⁶⁰ with Lizzie. Had I gone to Northumberland⁶¹ as usual, I should not have failed seeing you on the way, going or returning. During the coming season I hope to have the pleasure of re-visiting Albany.

⁵⁸ Colonel Henry Sanford Gansevoort, seriously ill, had gone in December, 1870, to the island of Nassau, where he arrived after a five-day voyage. It was soon determined by the family to send his sister, Catherine, to him. She arrived at Nassau on January 16th, and found her brother in the throes of consumption, from which he died on the way home, on April 12, 1871. While they were at Nassau, Abraham Lansing paid them a visit, as shown in her diary of 1871.

⁵⁹ Residence in Albany of Peter Gansevoort. Augusta was a sister of Melville.

⁶⁰ North Conway, Carroll County, N. H.

⁶¹ Northumberland, Saratoga County, N. Y.

esterday (Christmas) we all dined on Staten Island at Tom's, who gave us a beautiful and luxurious banquet.⁶² It was a big table, belted round by big appetites and bigger hearts, but the biggest of all the hearts was at the head of the table — big big with satisfaction at seeing us enjoying ourselves. Mamma looked uncommonly well; and Helen, Augusta, Kate (two Kates), Fanny, Minnie, Frankie, Bessie, Fanny, Stanny, Mr Hoadley, Mr Griggs, not excluding the present modest writer — we all looked well indeed.

Among the toasts Uncle Peter was remembered, Aunt Susan & Cousin Kate; but Henry was forgotten. Tom offered that toast to his memory.

Fanny and I were obliged to leave at any early or rather early hour, in order to take the last boat for New York. We left them still enjoying themselves in the parlors.

With much love to Aunt Susan⁶³ & sympathy for her illness, and love to Kate,

Believe me

With much respect

Affectionately

Herman Melville

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
(MRS. LANSING)

New York Jan. 9, 1872

Dear Kate,

I hope you will not measure my appreciation of your kind and most acceptable Christmas gift by my delay in sending you my sincere thanks for it — I do so almost heartily, and I am sure you could not have chosen any thing more to my sense and sense of comfort — I have cuddled myself up in it these cold mornings, and said as often — it is just what I wanted —

Nothing but press of domestic care at this very busy season has prevented my writing you before, as I have intended to do, day after day —

Augusta, I believe has written you all about the family gathering at Tom's on Christmas Day — It was a pleasant meeting, though it comes at last that these anniversaries bring as much of sadness as gladness, and the places left vacant by dear ones who have "gone up higher" seem more empty still — And were it not for the sympathy and interest in the young branches who are able to hail

This Christmas party at Sailor's Snug Harbor, on Staten Island, was a family reunion, the first with their mother in the circle, for she died soon after. Here were, besides the families of the brothers, their sister Helen Maria and her husband George Griggs, their sister Catherine Gansevoort and her husband John C. Hoadley, and their daughter Charlotte, and other relatives. Mrs. Peter Gansevoort was suffering then with "a slight attack of Pneumonia & Pleurisy."

these seasons with delight, I for one would almost be glad to let them pass without outward notice —

I was glad to see Mother Melville looking so well and bright — she is certainly a most remarkable old lady — she seemed to have taken much pleasure in her visit to Albany — Do you not think, dear Kate that you could come down to the city while so many of the family are here? If you would come and stay with us, we should be most happy to have you, and I would do all in my power to make you comfortable — You know you could not come to a quieter house than this, where you might be at liberty to do just as you liked, and I think a change of scene at times is best for all of us — I hope that by this time your dear mother has recovered her health and strength — I was very sorry to hear of her illness both for her sake, and your father's — please tell her so, with my love —

Please give our united love also to your father, and our congratulations that he is so well at this trying season for the strongest — Herman often speaks of him, as we do of you all — And believe me ever affectionately

Your friend and cousin

Lizzie S. M.

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
(MRS. LANSING)

(*Extract*)

Sailors Snug Harbor

July 17, 1872

My dear Kate

... Herman and I expect to go to Pittsfield the first week in Aug. on Sat. the 3^d I think, if we find there is an afternoon train — as his vacation will date from Monday — I am impatient to go, for Jenny has kindly invited the girls to be there at the same time, and I so long to see them again — Stanny is still in Sedgwick, Harvey Co Kansas — where he went first, & he expects to remain there for the present — ...

Your affectionate cousin

Lizzie

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT (MRS. LANSING)

106 E. 26 St.

Dec. 9, '72

My Dear Cousin Kate:

Do you know much about the natural history of Angels? Well, there is one variety known by this: in the place where they may have tarried for a time they leave behind them a fragrance as of violets. Another sort, besides bequeathing

fragrance, leave along with it — what do you think? — Silver soup ladle. — I must alter my tone. It is a serious business receiving presents, and calls for serious acknowledgments. Well then: cordial thanks to you for your memorial of the Silver Wedding. Lizzie and I will ever think of you at our soup; and I shall always pour out a libation from the tureen to the angelic donor, before helping a more vulgar broth-bibbing mortal like myself.

And more so for as this is an acknowledgment of your valued gift, it is the sincerest I could make with my own hand and eyes. You knew I would not be guilty of the Hottentotishness (word just imported by the Cambria) of a causeless delay. — With affectionate remembrances to my sister Fanny,⁶⁴ Aunt Susan and Uncle Peter, Believe me

Thy loving cousin

Herman

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
(MRS. LANSING)

Boston Dec. 10 1872

Dear Kate,

I was about writing you when I read your letter, and am glad to have yours to reply to — Herman wrote me about the beautiful soup ladle that you presented with, and I beg you will accept my hearty thanks for your memorial of the wedding anniversary — I think now, there must have been some collusion between you and the young people, or you would not have known so exactly what I wanted in that line — and now can understand why Bessie protested so earnestly against my taking the ladles to Boston to be marked! What a disclosure there would have been, had I missed one of them! I am glad if you had a pleasant visit in New York — you know, if you will take us just as we are we are always glad to have you come, and you have only to write and let us know at any time when we would like to visit us —

My pie came along safely in my trunk, owing to my judicious packing! — it was only a little flattened, and it was pronounced *very nice by all* — though you would have been amused to see my brothers look askance at *any thing* in the place of one of “mother’s pies” on the table — I expect to return the last of this week, or early in next — The fire is the all absorbing topic, and friends on every side are met with losses greater or less — I have plenty to keep me company — but I am so much relieved by your father’s kind and generous gift to Herman (relieving the necessity of renting our house or part of it, which I feared) that I

⁶⁴ Frances Priscilla, born in 1827; died in 1885.

can bear my loss with equanimity — I say *I*, because Herman from his studious habits and tastes being unfitted for practical matters, all the *financial* management falls upon me — and one cannot make bricks without straw — you know — Mother and my brothers feel much relieved on my account — they beg to be kindly remembered —

With my very kind love to your father & mother believe me ever affectionately

Your friend and cousin

Lizzie

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
(MRS. LANSING)

(*Extract*)

New York May 26, 1873

My dear Kate,

The parcel by express came safely to hand on Saturday, and we thank you very much for your thoughtful kindness — The coat fits Herman very well I think, though it is a little snugger than the loose sacks he is accustomed to wear — His figure, and Henry's⁶⁵ were very similar — At Boston they constantly noticed how much they were alike in various ways — but *mainly*, in figure and carriage — ...

We are also very busy here, the girls are getting ready to go to Boston somewhat earlier this year — to be in Cambridge on Class Day — My brother's son graduates, and a "good time" is expected — The pique skirt comes in very opportunely — we are dressmaking with all our might, as usual "on our own hook" — and are independent of dressmakers and their frightful charges with the exception of an occasional "cut and baste" — I do not expect to go away till Herman has his vacation, probably the last of July or August, and we shall be very happy to see you here any day agreeable to yourself, for as long a visit as you can give us — you have only to write us a day or two beforehand, & let us know the day and train — Herman is quite well again now — you heard through Augusta, of his sudden & severe illness — and also of Stanny's going to California — We all thought he was foolish to give up his place, especially as the Dr. was desirous to keep him, but he seems to be possessed with a demon of *restlessness*, and there is nothing to do but let him go — ... With much love to Uncle and Aunt Susan from us all, believe me affectionately

Yr cousin

Lizzie

⁶⁵ Henry Sanford Gansevoort, deceased.



HERMAN MELVILLE'S MOTHER AT EIGHTY

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
(MRS. LANSING)

(*Extract*)

New York July 2^d 1873

dear Kate —

I miss you very much and wish you were here to help me get along with dreary time without the children — When Herman is gone all day, or the best part of it, the house seems utterly desolate — it is quite a new sensation for to have the days seem *long* — We are counting the days for going to Pittsfield to think with longings of the refreshing breezes from the hill-tops — We would very much indeed to meet your father & mother and you at Catskill, if it were possible — but fear that it will not be in our power to do so — . . . Herman sends his love, and wishes to know if you have succeeded in getting the book you ordered — if not to let him know, and he will get it for you — He joins me also in kind love to Uncle, and Aunt Susan and, with our kind remembrances to Mr Lansing, believe me affectionately

Yr Cousin

Lizzie

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
(MRS. LANSING)

(*Extract*)

New York July 18th 1873

dear Kate,

Herman and I are counting the days before we go to Pittsfield — and hope to leave on Saturday of next week — the 26th . . . accept the ever affectionate remembrances of your friend & cousin

Lizzie

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
(MRS. LANSING)

(*Extract*)

dear Kate,

We expect to go to Pittsfield next Saturday, the 26th . . . the house will be closed for the two weeks that Herman expects to be absent . . . With much love from your father & mother, in which Herman joins, believe me affectionately your
n

New York — July 20 [1873]

Lizzie

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
(MRS. LANSING)

(Extract)

49 Mt. Vernon St.

Boston Aug. 15. 1873

Dear Kate,

... Herman and I had a *delightful* visit in Pittsfield and — have you heard the news? — it has happened since I left — Maria is engaged to young Mr. Morewood — Willie, as we always call him — we have known him from infancy, and feel sure that his character and standing are such as to make the match a very suitable one —

He is a young man of most excellent principles and a good heart — has been a most affectionate & devoted son and brother and every one who *knows* him well thinks well of him — He has been in successful mercantile business in New York for some years, with “something to the fore” besides — the mutual attachment is based upon a long tried *friendship* which is the best ground for married happiness — and I think it is a good move for not only Milie, but also for her sisters — for he will be a kind protector for all of them — and they all appreciate his brotherly kindness — Herman was there a few days ago *after* I left, (as I wanted to see Bessie *here* before she went home) and Willie took that opportunity to talk with him and have it settled — He approves of it very much —

So the young people are likely to “have a wedding in the family” as they wished and Kitty will “have a brother-in-law” at last, as *she* longed for — Fanny, (my Fanny) came to Pittsfield before we left, and is there still — Herman and Bessie are in New York, & she has a young friend to keep her company — ...

Our visit to Arrowhead did us both much good — and I wish you could go there and see how delightful it is — We spent nearly all the time walking, or driving, or sitting out doors — and it seemed as if we could not get enough of the reviving air, after being nearly suffocated in the heat and *smell* of New York — The girls get along admirably and the place looks as neat as a pin — With their aunt’s family “over the way” — they have both protection and company and all goes on well — ...

believe me affectionately

Your cousin

Lizzie

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
(MRS. LANSING)

(*Extract*)

New York Nov. 23 1873

Thank you dear Kate ever so much for your very kind and pressing invitations for the wedding⁶⁶ We will accept it for Bessie — Tom & Kate will take her with them — & leave her at your house — Herman cannot leave his post at this pressing time of business — He sends his very best wishes for you, & would give them in person if it were possible — For me, dear Kate, you know much pleasure it would give me to be present on "the occasion," but I have such very earnest desires expressed that I should be with the family at Thanksgiving, at Boston — that I have decided to go *there* — You know it is the old high hearth stone festival of us New Englanders, and in these times of change, we feel that every meeting *may* be the last one, and I think I ought to join in, mother desires it so much — If there were one day between the two occasions, I might go to Boston via Albany, but in view of the *dinner* party, and the long gathering on the 27th, the fatigue of a nights travel, after the ride to Albany would be too much for me — Be assured, I most fully appreciate your & generous proposition — . . . Again accept my heartfelt good wishes for the future, & with kind remembrances to Mr. Lansing, believe me

Your affectionate Cousin

Lizzie

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(*Extract*)

New York June 7, 1875

dear Kate,

I wanted to tell you that we are expecting Stanny home in a short time — a very favorable opening for his going back to his old business, *mechanical* industry offered itself, and since he [had] not got settled at anything in California, and had undergone a very marked change in his ideas and purposes, born of his own experience (which is the best teacher) we thought he would be very glad to come home and settle himself & we sent for him and he will do well now, have every reason to believe since he feels himself how foolish he has been to leave up a good home — His old friend, Fred Starr has succeeded to his father's place, and he wants just such an assistant as he knows Stanny can be, and will put him at work at once — & put him in a fair way to earn a handsome living —

⁶⁶The reference is to the marriage of Catherine Gansevoort to Abraham Lansing, at Albany.

We think he will be home about the 24th of June — He naturally feels some compunctions about coming back no better off in fortunes than when he left, & fears his friends may look coldly on him — but I told him I should say, and I want it to be distinctly understood that *we sent for him* — I wanted also to ask you dear Kate, if you would have any objection to my giving Stanny to wear, the coat that belonged to your dear brother, that you remember you sent Herman some time ago⁶⁷ — it did not fit him very well, so it has remained in my woolen chest — If you have, do not be backward to say so to me — I shall well understand it — but if not, please let me know, as I am getting together something for him to wear, as I suppose he will be quite out in the wardrobe way, on his arrival in civilized parts — We shall all be so glad to have him home and satisfied to stay, and he, poor fellow, is overjoyed at the thought of coming —

With kindest regards to your husband believe me ever

Your attached cousin

Lizzie

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

Gansevoort, Aug. — '75

Cousin Kate:

Lounging on the sofa after dinner just now in the parlor which was my mother's, my eye chanced to fall on a photograph of Henry in a gilt frame hanging under mother's portrait. I took it down & brought it to the window, & looked at it. —

Now let me say, that the engraving you showed me of Henry, meant for the book, is detestable.⁶⁸ Also, I have seen other pictures, claiming to be he, which do not look like him, and are a caricature of him. The picture for the book is the one that I referred to at the outset. It is he, and is not bad-looking, and it has character. —

Michael, the angel of truth, inspired me to write this to you on the instant. — Take it for what its worth, and so good bye.

H Melville

— P. S. Since writing the foregoing Fanny tells me that Mr Hoadley much dislikes the engraving. There's confirmation. — Stop tinkering, and do the right thing, I pray you, and impute to the right motive my outspokenness.

H. M.

⁶⁷ See Mrs. Melville's letter of May 26, 1873.

⁶⁸ Mrs. Lansing was engaged with the life of her brother, Colonel Henry Sanford Gansevoort, prepared by John C. Hoadley, husband of her cousin, Catherine Gansevoort Melville, Herman's sister.

MELVILLE TO ABRAHAM LANSING

New York, Aug 5, '75

Dear M^r Lansing:

I have just received your note of yesterday. I thank you for the prospective
 come. But as for meeting me on the wharf — dont mention it. When the
 of Persia or the Great Khan of Tartary come to Albany by the night-boat —
 meet on the wharf and with salvoes of artillery — but not a Custom House
 Director.

I should have mentioned in my note to Kate that I should not appear upon the
 till some time after breakfast — since on Sunday morning my appetite
 be clamorous at an hour too early for any rational household to satisfy. As
 my plunder or impedimenta, I shall carry nothing but what I take in my hand.
 Looking forward with pleasure to meeting you all

I remain

Truly yours

H. Melville

MELVILLE TO ABRAHAM LANSING

New York, Aug. 26, '75

Dear Mr. Lansing:

I received your note last night, enclosing the dr[a]ft. — Herewith is a note
 my uncle,⁶⁹ which you — or Cousin Kate will be kind enough to read to him;
 and deliver; you know best.

Thanking you again — and, through you, Cousin Kate — for your great hos-
 pitality and kindness to me during my Albany visit

Believe me

Sincerely yours

H Melville

⁶⁹ The reference is no doubt to payment from his uncle Peter Gansevoort for the printing of
 1," and Melville's letter of thanks. Peter Gansevoort was born at Albany, December 22, 1788;
 at the College of New Jersey, 1808; received there M.A., 1811; studied law at Litch-
 Conn., and at Albany; admitted to bar in 1811; was private secretary to De Witt Clinton,
 1819; judge advocate general of the State of New York, 1819-1821; member of assembly,
 1831; in State senate, 1833-1836; first judge of court of common pleas, 1843-1847. He was
 of Albany Academy, 1826-1876, and chairman of its board of trustees, 1856-1876. In
 he succeeded his father as a director in the New York State Bank, in which office he
 held until his death, on January 4, 1876. He married first, in 1833, Mary Sanford, by whom
 Henry Sanford and Catherine; and second, Susan Lansing, whom he married in 1843.

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

104 E. 26 [St.]

Oct. 8, '75

Cousin Kate: — By all means. Send it down at once. — I am glad you were pleased with that book of the sainted queen.⁷⁰ — My best love to my sister Kate, and Fanny, and say that they both must come down & see us before leaving for the East. —

My affectionate regards to your father and Abraham.

Lizzie is writing you, I think; so she will send remembrances for herself.

Thy Cousin

Herman

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

New York Feb. 2, 1876

Dear Kate,

I have just received Fanny's letter and hasten to reply that I am sorry it so happens just now that we cannot receive any visitor — not even Augusta and Fanny — The book is going through the press, and every minute of Herman's time and mine is devoted to it — the mere mechanical work of reading proof &c is so great and absorbing — You know dear Kate, how happy Herman and I always are to have you come here freely, and make yourself perfectly at home, and will I am sure understand the exigency of seeming want of hospitality at this time — Just as soon as the stress is over, I will let you know & then hope you will come down and make us a good visit — We were so sorry to hear that Augusta is ill, & hope that Fanny's good nursing will soon set her right again —

Herman sends love and so do we all —

Ever your affectionate cousin

Please remember us all to your husband

Lizzie

[*Enclosure of February 2, 1876*]

Dear Kate,

I have written you a note that Herman could see, as he wished, but want you to know how painful it is for me to write it, and also to have to give the real cause — The fact is, that Herman, poor fellow, is in such a frightfully nervous state, & particularly now with such an added strain on his mind, that I am actually *afraid*

⁷⁰ Referring to an inscribed copy from Melville to Mrs. Lansing of "The Life of St. Elizabeth, of Hungary," by Montalembert, translated by Mary Hackett (New York, 1870), in the Gansevoort-Lansing Collection.

have any one here for fear that he will be upset entirely, & not be able to go on with the printing — He was not willing to have even his own sisters here, and I wrote Augusta before she left Albany to that effect — that was the reason I changed her plan, and went to Tom's — If ever this dreadful *incubus* of a book (I call it so because it has undermined all our happiness) gets off Herman's shoulders I do hope he may be in better mental health — but at present I have reason to feel the gravest concern & anxiety about it — to put it in mild phrase — I do not speak of it — you know how such things are exaggerated — & I will tell you more when I see you — which I hope will be before long — you will know how I enjoy your visits — And I count on your affection for us, not to say of good sense, to take this as you should & in no wise feel hurt at it — Rather thank & pray for your ever affectionate cousin

Lizzie.

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING
(Extract)

New York Apl 22 1876

dear Kate,

I write a line to remind you that another week will bring along the first of May, and I trust you will be at liberty to make us your promised visit —

I congratulate us that the book is *at last*, in type, to the last page of Ms. and a few days more will finish up the *plate-printing* and the various little odds and ends of the work — Herman has consented on the *very strong* representations of the publishers, to put his name on the title-page, for which I am very glad — and before he has changed his mind about having a dedication — Now, he wants to tell you he is going to inscribe that book in your father's name, as seems so natural and fit — I have been all along in strong hopes that he would, but he has been averse to having *any* dedication whatever or any name on the title page — I will be so thankful when it is all finished and off of his mind, and cannot help hoping that his health will improve when he is released from this long continued mental strain — . . .

We are getting quite anxious to hear of Helen & Fanny — How could any one so mean and heartless, as to disturb that house at Gansevoort — the very peace and repose of which, just as poor Augusta left it, would seem to make it most sacred — Most of all, my heart aches for poor Fanny — how will she ever endure the desolation & change that is now brought to her — Thank Heaven for

Divine Help — surely it cannot fail us — and how could we endure life without that strong assurance within us —

Do write soon — the girls are well, & send love — Herman sends kindest remembrances to yourself and husband —

Affectionately your friend & cousin

Lizzie S. M.

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(*Extract*)

New York June 4 1876

Dear Kate,

Congratulate us, for the *book*⁷¹ was published yesterday after a series of the most vexatious delays — I have only been waiting to reply to your note, to be able to say this — Herman will write you and *I hope*, send you a copy — (or perhaps he will by-and-by if he does not now) for I know you would value it —

His ring came from Tiffany's — all nicely marked, and he wears it frequently — the seal (wax) was not returned with it — I hope they have it safe — . . .

We all send love to you and Cousin Abe —

Affectionately your cousin

Lizzie

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

104 E. 26th St.

June 5, '76.

Aside from your special object in writing it, you do not know how deeply I felt the sincere tone of your note to me, Cousin Kate.

You repeat, and with added emphasis, what you verbally said to me at the depot here last April, as to carrying out your father's intention:⁷² I appreciate your fidelity, my cousin. — But though the matter is not yet developed into a clear statement rendered; I think now, as before, that nothing more is necessary. — When are we to see you here next? Come down before the heat fairly begins. — Tom & Kate dined with us yesterday.

Lizzie & the girls are well, and unite in love to you and Abe. Me too remember to him, and warmly. — And now — with my heart upbraiding me for writing so cold a response to so cousinly a note as yours — I hasten to end the sheet — and let it be with a benediction: —

God bless you!

H: Melville

⁷¹ The publication date of "Clarel."

⁷² Completion of the payment of cost for printing "Clarel."



House and Garden of Gansevoort-Lansing House

August 1867

Haines, Albany

GANSEVOORT-LANSING HOUSE AND GARDEN AT ALBANY, NEW YORK
(Photographs by Haines, August, 1867)

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(*Extract*)

New York June 6th 1876

Dear Kate,
Herman and I both wrote you yesterday, so your note, rec'd this morning just
reached our letters —
We shall be very glad to see you on the 15th or before as is convenient to you
You must at least, pass all the time of Abe's absence with us — If Fanny is
with you of course she will come too — Then perhaps Cousin Abe will come for
his return —
The name of the book, I enclose, and am sorry I omitted it yesterday — Should
have written you before but wanted to be able to say the book *was* published —
I should have enclosed this in Fanny's, but she had her letter sealed up before
yours came —
As soon as you see the book, let us know how you like the dedication — and if
you do not think it what would have been pleasing to your dear father — How I
wish he could have lived to hold the volumes in his hand! — . . .
I will unite in love — affectionately yr friend & cousin

Lizzie S. M.

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(*Extract*)

New York — June 21st [1876]

Dear Kate,
Bessie & Fanny and I are to go to the mountains, 1st Aug. through my good
uncle Lem's kind provision — and I am trying to arrange for comfortable
quarters for Herman during our absence, so as to shut up the house — I think the
change will benefit him also — take him out of himself —
Thanks for yours of 14th We are glad you like the inscription⁷³ in the book —
Dearest regards to Cousin Abe

your Cousin

Lizzie

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

104 E. 26 St.

July 25, '76

Dear Kate:

You have made such earnest assurances to me in reference to that book of
yours,⁷⁴ and in connection with what, you tell me, were your father's expressed

⁷³ The dedication of "Clarel."
⁷⁴ "Clarel."

wishes, that I can not doubt your sincerity. And so I make the following statement to you:

As it turned out, the 1200 covered the printing expenses, with a fraction to spare. But the supplementary charges — not long ago brought to my attention — against the account of the book — advertizing &c, and customary copies distributed for advertising purposes — will make a difference with me in any receipts to come, of about one hundred dollars.

Whether this comes within the scope of Uncle Peter's design or not, I do not venture to determine. But enough. —

Lizzie got your note yesterday. I thank you again for your repeated invitation to come up & spend some Sunday with you. I should be most happy so to do if practicable.

Lizzie & Fanny (Fanny the Little)⁷⁵ are busily completing their arrangements for the White mountain campaign. — Lizzie and I went to see Tom at the island⁷⁶ the other day (starting in 5 P. M. boat, & returning on 9 P. M. Quarantine) Found Tom & Kate well. — How tragical a thing that oversetting of the yacht. We passed the wreck in the boat — the two masts projecting from the water. —

My kindest remembrances to Abraham. — O, Fanny⁷⁷ is with you — my love to her, & say I hope to see her yet ere she leaves you. — And now, accept this note in testimony that as regards your cousinly interest in me I am neither insensible nor incredulous.

Herman.

[*In the margin by Mrs. Lansing:*] Ans'd July 31st 1876 enclosing check for \$100.⁰⁰

CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING TO MELVILLE⁷⁸

[Albany, July 31, 1876]

Cousin H.

Herewith I send a check to meet the balance due for Clarel's publication.

I beg you to receive it as a contribution of my father's to that object. He desired it, & for that reason I am the more earnest in having his wishes fulfilled.

The check which went to the Society for Ruptured & Crippled stands in my name. I hope Mr Oliver Swan did not take it with him.

⁷⁵ Herman's daughter, Frances, born in 1855, who became in 1880 the wife of Henry B. Thomas.

⁷⁶ Sailor's Snug Harbor on Staten Island.

⁷⁷ His sister, Frances Priscilla.

⁷⁸ Fragment of a draft in the handwriting of Abraham Lansing, with a few words by Mrs Lansing.

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

Aug. 2, '76.

507 West St.

Cousin Kate:

The postman has just handed me yours of July 31 enclosing check for the \$10; and, while the first impulse stirs me, I square round to my desk to tell you — never briefly — how deeply I feel the frank and affectionate spirit which permeates it. I won't say anything more — only this: that I heartily reciprocate and wish that we may always be true and sincere friends. Amen!

My best love to my sister Fanny, and kindest remembrance to Abraham.

And Believe me

My Dear Cousin Kate,

Always faithful

H. Melville

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

104 E 26 [St.]

Aug. 27. — P. M. [1876]

Dear Cousin Kate:

It was you that charged me with that commission touching the venerable printer; it is to you therefore that I now address this note.

Passing thro' Nassau St.⁷⁹ to-day I chanced upon a good set of the poet, at a moderate price — (\$4.) and, as these things are fugitive, I snapped it up immediately, and ordered it to be sent by express to 115 Wash. Ave. Albany. — That with his other volumes Chaucerian, Abraham will now have quite a voluminous library of the old poet who didn't know how to spell, as Artemas Ward

arrived in N. Y. this morning by Fall River R[oute] from Boston on my way from White Mountains. Lizzie & the girls are jolly. Helen, also I saw — so Mr Griggs — at Brookline are well & jovial. I myself am ever hilarious, and say sincerely that you & Abraham may likewise ever be so.

Your affectionate cousin

Herman

To Abraham: I have been thinking of what you said about changing the name of the Hotel.⁸⁰ — I think that "*The Fort Stanwix Hotel*" is the right thing. You

⁷⁹Nassau Street was at this period the principal center in New York City for secondhand books. This hostelry on Broadway, Albany, near Union Depot, continued to be owned by the family sold after Mrs. Lansing's death by her executors to liquidate her benefactions, which were enormous. Stanwix Hall was erected in 1832-1833 for Herman and Peter Gansevoort from plans of Homer Preston; Martin and Morey were the master builders, and Samuel Pratt was the mason. Alterations to it were made in 1877. The site had been in the family since its purchase by Harme Gansevoort in March, 1677.

need a change. Besides, "Stanwix Hall" is indefinite — it may (in the opinion of strangers) mean anything or nothing; but the prefix "*Fort*" fixes it, and provokes a question; and the answer is at hand. Then the late celebrations of the Centennial year are auspicious, and make the new title appropriate and popular. — See if Kate dont agree with me.

Final P. S. — "*Fort Stanwix Hotel*." That is genuine, historic, natural, and purely American. It avoids the snobbish imitation of English names to our N. Y. Hotels. It sets a good example. It is the thing.

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

N. Y. 507 West St.

Sep. 8 [1876]

Cousin Kate:

Your note reached me yesterday in the midst of a jumping tooth-ache, which, spite remedies, still clings, tho' now with merciful intimations of letting me off ere long. Nevertheless with one hand to my "jole," with the other I indite this note. — About the Chaucer: I infer that Abraham does not wish to pay the "Scribner" price for the book. Well then, I will keep a look out for a fair copy at the Nassau St prices, & secure it, if I find it. How much it will be, depends upon the seller &c. Should I not succeed in lighting on a copy such as I speak of, before your visit to us in October — then we three — yourself, Abraham & your humble servant — will take council together touching the matter and doubtless hit upon some wise decision. —

About the pears. Many thanks for your kind intimation. Should your purpose hold, and your pear-harvest admit of the gift without robbery to yourself — you had better defer sending them till Lizzie's return which will be — tho' no day is determined on — some time about the latter part of the month. — Lizzie & the girls have been greatly benefited by the mountain air — entirely excepting the annual cold, &c. — I am glad you chanced to mention incidentally the present whereabouts of Fanny & Helen,⁸¹ as I purpose a letter to Fanny & hardly knew where precisely she was. — And so, cousin Kate,

I remain always

Affectionately

Herman

⁸¹ His sisters Frances Priscilla and Helen Maria.

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

New York, Sep. 13, '76

Dear Cousin Kate:

Your kind note of the 10th announcing the plums, was received on Monday. Last night (Tuesday) the first arrived all right in 25th St, giving great pleasure to the Misses Hartnett, and furnishing to me an added example of your cousinly good feeling. Edwin, with Mr Brewster dined with us (at the Misses Hartnett's) that evening, and spent the remainder of it with me in my room at 26th St. I was all pleased to see him again, & looking so well. — About the enclosed slip. You perceive that you have become a contributor, and in some degree, a privileged one, to an excellent Charity. — You pause, methinks, and say —

“Pray, explain yourself.” —

Well then — and for sweet charity's sake don't take offence — I have upon consideration determined that as touching the provision for the publication of *Harrel*,” it is best to restrict myself to what Uncle Peter so kindly presented me with in person, as I may say. By your subsequent supplemental act you faithfully carried out what, as you averred, was your father's directions or wishes: you are reproachable there; and anything that I can do or have now done, does not and cannot revoke that affectionate act of yours, while yet *my* action operates in a way favorable to the unembarrassed freedom of mutual good will. (Rather *well writing*,” that last clause). — Well; but you take nothing back — you give nothing back — but are *forced* to acquiesce in the step I have taken. The result of all is — the benefit of suffering humanity. Let us therefore, my Dear Cousin, congratulate ourselves all round — you, me, and the poor cripples, and no more about it. —

Mizzie & the girls are coming home next Monday. We completely expect you to visit us on your way to the Centennial — you and Abraham. Don't forget it. Mans of welcome will be extended to you. — And now, believe me always faithfully & affectionately and devoutly

Your Cousin

Herman

P. S. I send by same mail the last report of the Society, which, I know, will be interesting to you.

CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING TO MELVILLE

Mr Cousin Herman

Your letter of 13th inst rec'd, as well as the enclosed receipt for the 100 Dollar contribution to the N. Y. Society for the relief of the Ruptured & Crippled. I

should have been glad to have you allow Papa to pay the whole expense of "Clarel," but as you have thought best to assume part you[r]self I thank you for the gift you have bestowed on me, in giving me, the credit for your own "sweet charity" to the destitute & suffering. May it do good & give Comfort to those unfortunates for whose good it has been bestowed, &c &c

[Unsigned⁸²]

Sunday afternoon

Sept. 17th 1876

Albany, N. Y.

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(*Extract*)

New York Sept 21, 1876

My dear Kate,

. . . Herman tells me that you and Cousin Abe think of going to the Centennial before long and that he has asked you to stop on your way, and make us a visit — We all "second that motion" and hope you will . . .

We all send much love & hope to hear from you soon about coming to N. Y.

Affectionately your Cousin

Lizzie

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

New York

104 E. 26 St.

Sep. 26, '76

Cousin Kate:

I was glad to get your note of the 17th, and was much gratified with the tone of it. By the way — your rainy Sunday was also experienced by me, alone here as it chanced, to chew the cud of meet and bitter fancies. I doubt not there was no lack of others — a plentiful sprinkling of them all over the world. — We are all well pleased to know that you and Abe are going to shed your benign presence on us, and Fanny also (from whom we got a letter to day, & likewise from Helen) on your way to the Centennial. —

⁸² Copy of her letter, not the one she signed and sent.

A man in Nassau St. tells me that he can procure me a copy of Chaucer —
 1's edition, and new — for six dollars. What say you? If yes, I will invest.
 I think Abe will hardly do better. —

We relish your pears much — good thing at breakfast — and remember you
 every day.

With friendliest regards to Abraham

Believe me, affectionately

Herman

P. S. W[e] rely & count upon that visit — you & Abe & Fanny; and only
 regret that my sister Helen is not also one of the party. I write her to day at
 Gansevoort.

Endorsed by Mrs. Lansing:] Ans'd Sunday Oct. 1st 1876.

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

Oct. 12 '76.

104 E. 26 St.

My Cousin Kate:

In response to your[s] of the 1st: The Chaucer is in eight vols. — good print
 same edition as mine — Bell's — but it is perfect. — However, as I under-
 stand, the Nassau St. man will procure it for me at the price named (\$6, I think)
 any time I may desire it. it will be better to let it rest until your visit to us ere
 long, on your return from the Centennial.⁸³

By the way, I was there yesterday — went & returned same day; you will be
 much impressed with it; it is immense — a sort of tremendous Vanity Fair.
 I was very much pleased with Mr Street's little poem.⁸⁴ It is admirable in its
 simplicity to nature and happy ensemble.

With kind regards to Abraham

Affectionately

Herman

MELVILLE TO ABRAHAM LANSING

104 E 26, N. Y.

Jan. 2, 1877

Dear Abraham:

I was glad to get your note, and to know that you were so pleased with Beranger
 and *the volume*: a shabby looking little cask it is, but then, the contents! —

⁸³ Mrs. Lansing's diary of her visit to the Centennial at Philadelphia is in the Gansevoort-
 Collection in the Manuscript Division.
⁸⁴ Alfred Billings Street, of Albany.

I liked that Christmas Story you sent me, especially in the opening portion — the good old Dutch Saint's lamentation over these "degenerate days" which we account such an "advance."

Tell *Catherine* that her New Year Cake came along all right, and that we duly appreciated her Christmas kindness. By *we* I mean Lizzie and myself, the special donees, and also Bessie & Fanny, assistant *eatees*. —

By the way, — the almanac — I should have been sorry to have forgotten it — That venerable almanac,⁸⁵ which bears witness to the old times when some imagination yet lingered in this sort of publication. I relish looking over it mightily. It has set me to getting from Boston a similar almanac which still continues to be published there.⁸⁶ — Lizzie sends love to Kate and begs her to accept this in her acknowl^{ts} for her share of the Christmas hamper.

My best remembrances also. Besy & Fanny⁸⁷ join.

Sincerely yours

Oh — A happy New Year to you — you & Kate.

H. Melville

Tell Kate I have not forgotten her commission.

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

New York Jan. 4, '77

Cousin Kate:

After some delay hardly avoidable, let me acknowledge your note, with enclosure. — What shall I say? — Well, so be it. Yet, in the repetition, how can I otherwise than accept it in the spirit in which it is proferred, and as coming thro' you from Uncle Peter in the carrying out of his kindly purpose.

— About the picture: It is in the framer's hands, and doubtless you will receive it in a day or two. In the absence of your Mr. Joiner I communicated with another person who seemed not unacquainted with your artistic affairs &c. He was very polite, so much so indeed that, fearing, were the matter left entirely to his discretion, he might enshrine the print too sumptuously, I felt forced to make some humble suggestions. But I hope the result will be satisfactory.

Lizzie sends love. So do Bessie & Fanny. — We all daily munch our New Year Cake; — which reminds me to wish you and Abraham a happy time for the next twelve months.

Sincerely & affectionately

H. Melville

⁸⁵ Probably the old Webster's Albany Almanac. Mrs. Lansing's long run of these is now in The New York Public Library.

⁸⁶ Probably Thomas's, which Professor Kittredge has immortalized in his "Old Farmer and his Almanac" (1905).

⁸⁷ His daughters Elizabeth and Frances.

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING
(*Extract*)

New York Jan 27, 1877

Dear Kate,
Thanks for your letter of the 17th I rec^d it just after sending you a brief line
a letter forwarded to you — so I suppose *that* was the reason you were
thinking of me that day, because I was thinking of you “rapport of spirits,” you
— And by the way, I have been interested of late in the accts of “Professor
Win” who has been lecturing in Boston on “Spiritualism,” and whose adver-
ment I enclose — I wish he would make a little clearer explanation of how he
is and answers the folded slips of paper after the manner of Foster and others
if I see anything more satisfactory in the papers I will cut it out — . . .
We all send love to you and Cousin Abe —

Affectionately yr cousin

Lizzie

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING
(*Extract*)

New York Feb 25, 1877

Dear Kate,
. . . All send love — please drop us a line or a postal when to expect you —
I want you *always* to mention Herman’s name in your letters, especially if it
say anything about coming down — *I* know your feeling is always right
m, and so does every one else, but he is *morbidly* sensitive, poor fellow, and I
ys try (though I can’t succeed to my sorrow) to smooth the fancied rough
s to him wherever I can — so I know you will understand why I mention
With our kindest regards to Cousin Abe believe me ever affectionately
yr cousin

Lizzie

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

Dear Cousin Kate:

was disappointed by your not dropping in upon us during your last trip to
— and, chiefly, because I have had something to say to you which I did not
formally to annoy you about in a letter, but meant to say to you then. —
ever, I will now no longer delay it. —

It was this: You should have let that matter of the \$100 rest where it was left for a finality last summer. Your subsequent letter — not very long ago — re-inclosing the money, made such an appeal to me, and placed the matter on such grounds as to make declination difficult without an appearance of obstinacy and rudeness. But I repented my assent. — And I revoke it. Be prepared therefore sooner or later I beg you, to receive the money back without comment. Should you return it, some Charity will receive it, and down goes your name again for the Lady Bountiful of Albany. —

Now, my dear Kin, my cousinly disposition towards you may not be worth much to you; still, if you desire me to retain it unimpaired, you must uncomplainingly indulge me in my whim, for such you may call it, if you like. Indeed, you are welcome to almost any opinion, except that I am prompted by the remotest thought of wounding you, or any absurd idea of setting up for myself a spurious dignity. —

Now about President Hayes? I chanced to turn over a file of your Albany Argus yesterday, and was all but blown off the stool by the tremendous fulmination of that indignant sheet. — But what's the use? life is short, and Hayes' term is four years, each of 365 days.

Lizzie, the girls, & I anticipate your & Fanny's visit with pleasure.

With the sincerest regards to Abe,

Believe me

Truly and affectionately

Herman

March 7th '77

— Dont concern yourself, I implore, as to replying to this note. Simply acknowledge its receipt, if you will, by a newspaper. —

[*Marginal note by Mrs. Lansing:*] Saturday June 23^d 1877 — Cousin Herman gave me the 100-Dollars which he in this note said he would refund to me. Given to me at his house 104 E. 26th St N. Y. City & ack by me by mail a few days afterward K. G. L.

MELVILLE TO JOHN C. HOADLEY⁸⁸

Saturday in Easter Week 1877

My Dear Fellow:

I propose buying a hairs-shirt and a scourge, and putting them to use for a week or so, as a penalty for my remissness in allowing your most friendly note of the 25 ult. to remain unanswered so long. — And yet I might say something in

⁸⁸ Melville's brother-in-law, who had married his sister, Catherine Gansevoort Melville, in 1853. Hoadley was himself a man of letters.

tion of my incivility. You are young; but I am verging upon three-score, at times a certain lassitude steals over one — in fact, a disinclination for doing anything except the indispensable. At such moments the problem of the universe is a humbug, and epistolary obligations mere moonshine, and the — well, the⁸⁹ seems all-in-all.

Your legend from Marco Polo I had never previously met with. How full of significance it is! And beauty too. These legends of the Old Faith are really wonderful both from their multiplicity and their poetry. They far surpass the fables in the Greek mythologies. Don't you think so? See, for example, the loss of Elizabeth of Hungary.

"He wins who highest aims": whose translation is that? Tell me. Thank you for sending me so beautiful a thing engrossed by your deft & dexterous pen.⁹⁰ (The alliteration there was irresistible)

In return for your M.S. yarns I send you something I found the other day — I traced it in a lot of papers.⁹¹ I remember that the lines were suggested by a passage in Gibbon (Decline & Fall) Have you a copy? Turn to "*Antonine*" & cetera. What the deuce the thing means I don't know; but here it is.

By the way I have a ship on my District from Girgate. — Where's that? Sicily — The ancient Agrigentum. Ships arrive from there in this port, bringing sulphur; but this is the first one I have happened to have officially docketed. I have not succeeded in seeing the captain yet — have only seen the mate — I hear that he has in possession some stones from those magnificent Grecian quarries and I am going to try to get a fragment, however small, if possible, which I will divide with you.

Best love to Kate & your two Princesses of India.

H Melville

[*de note:*] Lizzie and the girls are well, and if they knew of my writing I would send their affectionate remembrances to all.

The magic potion of the ancients, supposed to drown sorrow and misfortune, well defined in Ovid's "*Fairy Queen*," iv. iii. 43, thus:

"Nepenthe is a drinke of soverayne grace,
Devised by the Gods, for to assuage
Harts grief, and bitter gall away to chace."

The reference is to an engrossed copy of a poem of twenty-one lines that Hoadley had sent to Melville in the year. This manuscript accompanies Melville's letter in The New York Public Library.
The enclosure follows this letter.

[Enclosure]

THE AGE OF THE ANTONINES.⁹²

1.

While hope awaits millennial years,
 Though dim of late the signs,
 Back to the past a glance be cast —
 The age of the Antonines!
 Oh, summit of fate and zenith of time,
 When a pagan gentleman reigned,
 And the olive was nailed to the inn of the world,
 Nor the peace of the just was feigned.
 A halcyon age — afar it shines
 The imperial age of the Antonines!

2.

Hymns to the nation's federate gods
 Went up from friendly shrines;
 No demagogue beat the pulpit-drum
 In the age of the Antonines!
 Ere the sting was dreamed to be taken from death —
 Ere the saving of scamps was taught,
 They reasoned of fate at the flowing feast
 Nor stifled the fluent thought:
 We sham, we shuffle, while faith declines:
 They were *frank* in the age of the Antonines!

3.

Orders and grades and due degree —
 None felt how the leveller pines;
 Yea, men were better than blatantly free
 In the age of the Antonines!
 Under Law, made Will, the world reposed,
 And the Ruler's right confessed,
 For the Gods elected the Emperor then —
 The foremost of men the best!
 Ah, might we read in the Future's signs
 The Past revived in the Antonines!

⁹² The text presented here varies considerably from that which was printed in the "Timoleon" collection of forty-three poems, privately printed by The Caxton Press of New York, 1891, in an edition of twenty-five copies. An important variation is the application to America in the last two lines in the later version, thus:

"Ah, might we read in America's signs
 The Age restored of the Antonines."

to the Note —

st looked over the accompanying letter which I wrote this morning. It is a sort of an absurd scribble, but if it evidences good-fellowship and good feeling, it serves the purpose. You are going (as I said before) but I aint; and at times, and with my disposition, or rather constitution, one gets to care less for everything except downright good feeling. Life is so short, and so foolish and irrational (from a certain point of view) that one knows not what to make of it, unless — well, finish the sentence for yourself.

Thine

In these inexplicable fleshly bonds

N. B. *I aint crazy.*

H. M.

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING
(*Extract*)

New York June 5 — 1877

Kate,

1. Today probably Cousin Abe has acknowledgment from Herman of his letter received yesterday — I need not say that the kindly remembrance from your father gave him great pleasure — and I hope it will make him really happier to have something to call his own — poor fellow he has so much mental suffering to undergo (and oh how *all* unnecessary) I am rejoiced when anything comes into the way to give him even a moment's relief — . . .

Affectionately yr Cousin

Lizzie

MELVILLE TO MR. AND MRS. ABRAHAM LANSING

Gansevoort

Aug. 14 [1877]

Dear Cousin Kate

&

Dear Fellow, Abraham:

Let me repeat to you my acknowledgments for your genial hospitality and goodness during my brief visit in Albany. I enjoyed it right well. And was so happy to have seen Judge Hurlburt's⁹³ place and spent so agreeable an evening

⁹³ Eliza P. Hurlbut, who married Catherine Van Vechten.

I staid over about three hours or so at the Springs.⁹⁴ I lunched at a neat little restaurant I found there, and visited the hotels, presenting no doubt a distinguished appearance in my duster, and finally took up a commanding position on the piazza of the Great Union, and surveyed at my leasure the moving spectacle of fashion and in some instances — folly. A New York paper also of the day helped to occupy the time.

I found Kate and Fany and Frankie here — all well and warm in welcome.

To-day is faultless weather and I shall dedicate it to leisure and the piazza.

To morrow I must break away — as I did from you — and start for the mountains. Kate & Fany send abundance of love. Accept as much from me, and Helen, always

& sincerely yours

H. Melville

P. S. I go off visiting so seldom, that, really, I omit to do some things I ought to do, and would take pleasure in doing; they, simply, do not occur to me at the time, but reproachfully molest me afterwards in the omission. — Well, I did not call to pay my respects to Miss Lansing and Miss Anna. But apologies are awkward, and incredulity is but natural in some circumstances. Pray, Abraham, do the fitting thing for me, and redeem me in the good opinion of the ladies.

N. B. I will subject myself to any penance the ladies may be pleased to assign.

Final P. S. — Having, at Fany's request, left this letter open, so that she might add something or enclose, I am tempted to say one word more — namely: I have just been reading in a copy of Frank Leslie's Illustrated paper "The Old Garden" by Mr Street. How beautiful, and poetically true to nature it is! It is like a flower-and-fruit piece by some mellow old Fleming. — There, I wont bore you any more. — H. M.

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

Jane & West Sts:

Sep. 5. '77.

Dear Cousin Kate:

Your note of the 2^d acknowledging the receipt of the set of Chaucer; and also your note of the 3^d enclosing the price of the set — thank you for both of them.

You mention having spent a peaceful Sunday at Gansevoort, enjoying it much, with Abraham. I should have liked it well to have been of the company. I was so sorry that, purposing my main visit among the mountains, I was not able to devote more time to Gansevoort. Helen, Kate, Fanny, & Minnie must be having a

⁹⁴ Saratoga Springs.

sant time there together. — Oh, I have to acknowledge the receipt of a note from you of Aug. 9 in response to mine of a few days before. This note did not come to my hands until after my arrival home from the mountains, it, probably, arriving here the afternoon of the day I left, and was kept for me. — I have just read over the note again. — So it appears that I used in my letter to you the expression "*people of leisure*." If I did, it was a faulty expression — as applied to that case. I doubtless meant people the disposition of whose time is not subject to another. But it amused me — your disclaiming the thing, as if there was any fault in *not* being a person of leisure. Whoever is not in the possession of leisure hardly be said to possess independence. They talk of the *dignity of work*. True Work is the *necessity* of poor humanity's earthly condition. The dignity is in leisure. Besides, 99 hundredth of all the *work* done in the world is either foolish and unnecessary, or harmful and wicked. But bless my heart! I am scribbling here at a pretty rate. I will stop at once; and promise never to do so again.

Fessie & the girls are doing well at the White Mountains, and will remain there for a time. Their absence makes it decidedly lonely often in the house. But I enjoy my meals at the Hartnetts:⁹⁵ who are all that one can wish as hostesses. They are more agreeable people there too whom I meet.

My kindest regards to Abraham. Tell him not to be rash now, and sit up all night reading Chaucer, and comparing his variorum editions &c.

Always affectionately

Yours

Cousin Herman

My kindest regards to Cousin Kate Hurlburt and the Judge,⁹⁶ and family, if you see them. I enjoyed my visit to them very much — & let me add — my visit at Albany. —

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING
(Extract)

104 East 26th st

Oct. 9 — 1877

Kate,
I should have replied to your letter of 3^d before but have been up to my eyes in work and we are now all upside down with painters — for *wonderful* to say, we

⁹⁵ the Misses Hartnett on Twenty-fifth Street, where he was wont to dine at times.
⁹⁶ the note to preceding letter.

are making some much needed renovation of some parts of the house — and getting some new furniture in the bed rooms, to replace the shabbiness which has so long prevailed there — Fanny is to take the little room for hers, so we shall have a *decent* guest chamber for two,⁹⁷ with some new (cottage) furniture — And I shall be quite impatient for you and Abe to come and occupy it — for I want *you* to be the first to christen it — I can't tell now when we shall get through — but hope to, before a great while — I shall be very glad to have the pillows you speak of, and thank you — they will serve exactly for the new bed — . . .

I don't believe Herman will go to the Saratoga Cen.⁹⁸ he cannot get away, even if he care to — he is well & joins with one in love to yourself and Cousin Abe — . . .

Ever affectionately

Yr Cousin

Lizzie

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING
(*Extract*)

New York Dec 31 1877

Dear Kate,

We were glad to hear by Fanny's letter that you got home safely — it was *very* unsatisfactory that flying call of yours at the door — I think you might have given us a little time, just enough to look at our "improvements" — . . . We had a very pleasant Christmas gathering at Tom's and the nieces, all, spent the rest of the week there, and the baby — well of course you have heard all about him from his great aunt Fanny — on this occasion he sat up at the table for an hour or more as straight and good as any one — . . .

ever affectionately

Yr Cousin

Lizzie

After all you didn't christen the new room! but I shall look for you to come and make a visit "like a Christian" before long —

⁹⁷ From Mrs. Melville's letter of September 30, we learn the new guest chamber and other renovations were made on the upper floor of the house.

⁹⁸ Centennial of the battle of Saratoga.

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

104 E 26 [Street]

Aug 1, '78

Mr Cousin Kate:

Of course — as I said when you broached the matter to me here — I shall be happy to be your agent in presenting to the Lenox Library⁹⁹ a copy of my Memorial.¹⁰⁰

Send it down by Adams Express, to be left and called for there, at their office 33^d St. near 5th Ave. Advise me by mail at the time of sending, and it will be right.

You refer to the travellers. They were to have left Boston — as Lizzie said her note received Wednesday — yesterday for the mountains.

Oppious showers we have been having here of late, but cooler weather.

Hoping you are well, and with kind regards to Abraham,

Believe me

Sincerely

Your Cousin

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

104 E 26 [Street]

Aug. 6. '78

Mr Cousin Kate:

I got yours of the 4th last night, and this morning on my way to my far up-land "District," I took the Memorial Volume to the Lenox Library, hoping to find there Mr Moore¹⁰¹ the librarian, whom I have met two or three times. Unfortunately he was not there; and the library it seems, is closed for the season. I in, however, and left the Book with the janitor in perfect security, leaving a brief note for Mr Moore, in which I said I should take an early opportunity to call again & say something to him especially about the gift. — By the way, it is a beautiful copy; and upon my first opening the parcel in the janitor's presence, he admired admiringly at the binding.

⁹⁹The Lenox Library, founded in 1870 by James Lenox, at Fifth Avenue, 70th to 71st Streets, first opened for public use in 1877. It now is part of the consolidation — The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations.

¹⁰⁰The reference is to a copy of the memorial biography of Col. Henry Sanford Gansevoort, written for Mrs. Lansing by John C. Hoadley, Melville's brother-in-law.

¹⁰¹George Henry Moore, LL.D., superintendent of the Lenox Library, who continued in that post until his death in 1892. It was the custom then and for years thereafter, as remembered by the present editor, to keep the library closed during the summer months. The janitor to whom Melville delivered the book was also named Moore, but of this he was not aware.

About the invitation to stay over with you Saturday & Sunday next — thank you for your kindness. Yes, I will come with pleasure. I will leave here Thursday night on the boat, & will probably be at 115 Wash. Ave. at breakfast time — if convenient to you.

With kind regards to Abraham

Sincerely

Your Cousin

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

New York

104 E. 26 [Street]

Aug 12 [1878]

Dear Cousin Kate:

After two prodigious bumpers of coffee at the depot (from the effect of which I have hardly yet recovered) off we started for New York where we arrived about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10. Upon unlocking the front door — two letters awaited me (thanks to the "letter-slip") one from Lizzie & one from a young gentleman by the name of Thomas. The latter dated his note from Copps (?) Hill. Curious coincidence — Fanny is there. —

I enjoyed myself very much while with you — in fact, so much, that upon returning to this solitary house the loneliness is enhanced. I don't know that I shall visit you & Abraham again, if the eventual result is but an augmentation of the blues. — Howsomedever [*sic*], every one manages to rub (?) along; and so, Cousin Kate, with love to yourself and kindest remembers to him whom you only a thousandth part appreciate

I remain

Your Cousin

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

104 East 26th st

New York Nov 6, 1878

Dear Kate,

Many thanks for your kind and judicious letter received this morning — The carpet came safely yesterday afternoon, and Herman has given me a long message to send you — He thinks it a very handsome one, and thanks you very much for your kindness in thinking of it for his room, and sending it, and hopes you will not think he does not appreciate it, if he hands it over to Bessie for *her* room —

ch it just about fits, and which is sadly in need of some kind of covering — especially as it nearly matches her grey mats — of course she is very anxious to have it, as her old *red* one with her *blue* trimming, has been an “eye sore” to her some time, and I was just contemplating whether we should try to worry through the winter with it, or put down matting —

As to Herman’s room he is so enamored of a *floor* without a “stuffy carpet” he does not want to have it covered at all but only have a mat here & there — for it will be cold for him in the winter, but as all the cracks have been filled up, I think not — The carpet is a lovely one and we are all pleased at your kindness in sending it —

We have been *very* busy and are now nearly at rights again — I have been sending Aunt Lucy’s special legacy to me (\$100.00) on our back parlor, and you will see a great improvement when you come again — I thought I could not do more than to put it in some form that we might all enjoy together —

We shall hope to see you and Cousin Abe at your convenience — A week from Monday we expect to have a few days visit from the *Sisters Thomas* — which has been contemplated for some time — but we have not been ready to receive strangers till we were *all* in order — Bessie is congratulating herself that her visit will now be satisfactory for them to see —

I have been writing to Stanny — he is in Quincy Cal. where he has occupation, and is quite well — but he has been sick poor fellow, and had to go in the hospital at Sacramento for some time — he has seen some very hard times, and deserves much credit for his pluck and patience under difficulties and disappointments — The girls are well and very busy, and send much love to you & Cousin Abe —
 Yours

Your affectionate

Cousin Lizzie

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

104 E. 26 [Street]

Nov. 26 [1878]

My Cousin Kate:

Your note of yesterday with Fanny’s¹⁰² were received this A. M. And I will answer forthwith as to your kind invitation, regretting for myself, Bessie & Fanny,¹⁰³ that we shall not be able to accept it, seeing that it is arranged already that we are to have a little thanksgiving affair here, of which “the young man”

¹⁰² His sister, Frances Priscilla.

¹⁰³ His daughter, Frances, who was married to Henry B. Thomas in 1880. Probably “the young man” was Mr. Thomas. “Bessie” is no doubt meant for his older daughter.

will of course be the central figure. But we are well pleased to learn both from you and Aunt Fanny¹⁰⁴ that next Monday you will be on your way hitherward, and that the next day we shall welcome you at 104. — 104 reminds me of your trunk. By all means let the Expressman bring it at once to the house.

My kind regards to Abraham, with hopes that he may soon be all right again.

Best love to Fanny, who will, I know, overlook by [*sic* for my] not writing her in especial, seeing that this note is substantially addressed to you together.

Affectionately

Herman

Lizzie is in the midst of her preparations for tomorrow's departure for Boston; and so, I fancy, will barely have time to write.

She is not at hand just now, or would send love.

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(*Extract*)

[New York] March 7th 1879

Dear Kate,

Your letter to Bessie I am going to try to write a few lines in answer to — though I am sick myself with one of my prostrated turns — and hardly able to guide my pencil — but I want to express my thanks to you for all your kindness to the girls while they were on their visit to you — they enjoyed themselves very much — and more especially for your interest so generously shown in Bessie's poor hands — You will be glad to hear, I am sure, that she began the binding up her fingers in splints at once with a *very marked* favorable effect towards straightening out though it is hardly a week yet — at times they pain her a good deal and we have to loosen the tie — but she feels much encouraged and is desirous to continue the treatment — She has taken the powders regularly & has 4 or 5 left — I certainly *do* want her to try homeopathic treatment if Dr Cox can prescribe for her at such a distance — I think I should feel want of confidence in any stranger here — And if you *will* be so kind as to consult him for her, and he thinks he can cure or even permanently help her, I shall be sincerely grateful to you, and be willing indeed to pay the charges for his advice and medicines — only one thing he ought to know & that is her *extreme delicacy* of constitution, and want of vital force — how little strain on her strength she can bear & how anxious we feel about her generally — so perhaps he could not do with her as with a *strong* patient — she says she did not tell him anything about her general health — his

¹⁰⁴ Aunt to his children, but his own sister.

question about straightening her fingers at once, *by force*, if carried out I believe I could kill her — You, who are so full of life & vigor (for which you ought to thank Heaven daily) can hardly appreciate what it is to be in the weak and prosed condition that Bessie and I suffer from more or less nearly all the time and which in my case drags me down at intervals as now when I cannot walk across the room without staggering — . . . There, I have exhausted myself — and you I fear trying to read this scribble, — it is the best I could do now — . . . With much love to you & Cousin Abe

Lizzie

The girls send much love — Herman also, with thanks for your kind invitation. He & the baby are getting on very well indeed

MELVILLE TO ABRAHAM LANSING

New York Nov 17, '79¹⁰⁵

Dear Mr Lansing:

We are all very much obliged to you for your Christmas invitation, but upon consideration, hardly think we shall be able to accept it. The truth is Lizzie is very robust — and the journey northward at midwinter — why, she rather enjoys it. — However, we all wish you & Cousin Kate a Merry Christmas (in France) wherever you or she may happen to be at the time.

With love to Cousin Kate

Believe me

Sincerely yours

H. Melville

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING
(*Extract*)

Boston Dec 4 — 1879

Dear Kate,
I should like ever so much to join you at the Christmas dinner, dear Kate, but I shall not be able to — if Herman would go, it would be different — but as I shall have to forego it —
Our Thanksgiving was, as you may suppose, a very sad one — only our own immediate family were assembled — My brothers are just as kind as they can be, but the house seems strange and empty to me and it is hard to realize that mother will never more be seen in the familiar places — Yes, time brings changes faster

On the day that this letter was written Lansing left Albany *en route* for Maryland. The next Mrs. Lansing came down from Albany and visited the Melvilles at 104 East 26th Street.

and faster as we advance in life, and we must accept what comes, painful though it is —

I will send you the paper containing the obituary notice of mother as soon as I can get some more copies — I think I showed it to you in New York but you will like to keep it —

Remember me kindly to cousin Abe & believe me affectionately

Your cousin

Lizzie

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

104 E. 26 [Street]

April 15, '80

My Dear Cousin Kate:

Your note announcing the decease of Mr John Lansing¹⁰⁶ is just received. — How sudden the event. Express to Abraham the true sympathies of all of us. — Though I met Mr. John Lansing but two or three times, yet each time I was most agreeably impressed with his intelligence and social disposition. —

I am sorry that my being at the funeral is hardly possible. Even on the occasion of the 5th I was not at perfect liberty for the day.

Lizzie & the girls and myself unite in love to Abraham and you.

Always sincerely

Herman

[*Endorsed by Mrs. Lansing:*] Ack through Cousin Lizzie April 22. 1880.

MELVILLE TO ABRAHAM LANSING

104 E 26 [Street]

Dec. 8, '80

Dear Mr Lansing:

Many thanks for your polite invitation to the Reception by the Fort Orange Club¹⁰⁷ — Thanks in behalf of the family, I mean, myself included. But Lizzie is in Boston & Bessie is keeping house, and I am an — old foggy; so none of us can comply, much as we regret it.

With kind remembrances to Kate — and, by the way, acknowledgments for the paper, —

I am, very truly yours

H. Melville

¹⁰⁶ John Thomas Lansing, born March 17, 1833; died April 14, 1880. He was buried on the 16th from the Gansevoort-Lansing house, 115 Washington Avenue.

¹⁰⁷ The principal gentlemen's club of Albany. The occasion was probably a "Ladies Night" or "Guest Night."

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT HOADLEY¹⁰⁸104 E 26th [Street]3^d day after Xmas

1881

Dear Kate:

Don't be alarmed by these beautiful flourishes of mine; I have been recently improving my penmanship by lessons from a High Dutch professor who teaches the stylish flourishes imaginable. —

But my object in dropping you this line is to thank you, My dear Kate, for the little vase. It is now on my mantle, and contributes much to the embellishment thereof, and I value it as your gift.

We are all as usual — that is to say, jolly; and trusting that you too are in the happy case, — with kind regards to John & love to the girls, Believe me

Affectionately

Herman

MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT HOADLEY

104 E. 26 [Street]

April 12 '82

Dear Kate:

I just received a note from Minnie, — for the which, pray, give her my affectionate acknowledgments — Wherein among other interesting matters, she says that she previously had heard distant rumors of — or did she read it under the head of "*Personal*" in the newspapers? — I say, she says that you and John propose a visit to these parts some time next week. Well: I write at once to say that altho', I suppose, you will spend days with Tom, you must not fail — you & — to spend a portion of the time with us. We should be most happy to greet Lizzie — who at present is at Orange helping Fanny to break in the "babby" going without its nurse¹⁰⁹ — would cheerfully unite with me in the invitation, if she here. Indeed, she was talking with me about making the invitation some time ago.

Lizzie & I rec^d letters from Helen & Fanny (jointly to & from) which I acknowledged by paper, & will ere long be happy to reciprocate by letter. With love to them and yourself & all, I remain — *No, I don't*, for I forgot to say we had a pleasant visit from the Lieutenant, who went with Bessie¹¹⁰ to the Zoo &

¹⁰⁸ His sister, who was Mrs. John C. Hoadley. She had two daughters.

¹⁰⁹ Reference to his wife's visit to his daughter, Mrs. Henry B. Thomas, and the grandchild.

¹¹⁰ His daughter, Elizabeth, born in 1853.

shook hands with Mr Barnum.¹¹¹ — How he has grown! Now then, I *remain* — at 104 E. 26 St. as usual, and am affectionately

Herman

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING
(Extract)

New York July 29th 1885

My dear Kate,

... Herman's position in the Custom House is in the Surveyor's Department — a *district inspector* — his work is all on the uptown piers nearly to Harlem — and he has held office since Dec. 1866 — Of course there have been removals, and he may be removed any day, for which I should be very sorry as apart from every thing else the *occupation* is a great thing for him — and he could not take any other post that required head work, & sitting at a desk — If Cousin Abe has an opportunity to say anything for him, I should be glad, but *do not let* Herman know that the subject has been mentioned between us — ...

Most affectionately yr cousin

Lizzie

MELVILLE TO ABRAHAM LANSING

New York

Aug. 21st '85

My Dear Mr. Lansing

I received yours of the 19th yesterday, inclosing the will and the "waiver"; and herewith you have the latter duly signed and acknowledged.¹¹²

Yours truly

H. Melville

ABRAHAM LANSING TO MELVILLE¹¹³

Sept. 9 [188]5.

Dear Mr Melville:

The tenant of Fanny's farm¹¹⁴ writes for an extension of his lease, so as to sow with a prospect of being able to reap next harvest. His ground has been ploughed.

¹¹¹ Phineas T. Barnum, the showman.

¹¹² Refers to the will of Melville's unmarried sister, Frances Priscilla, who had died this year.

¹¹³ From Lansing's letterpress copybook.

¹¹⁴ At Gansevoort. See note 4, *supra*, Griggs letter of September 12, 1857.

seems to be a good plan to extend the lease for a year. If you agree with it, you please sign & return to me the enclosed power of attorney.

only your signature is necessary.

Yours truly

Herman Melville Esq.

Abraham Lansing

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(*Extract*)

New York Jan 10, 1886

Dear Kate,

You and Cousin Abe have so kindly interested yourselves in Herman's retaining his Custom House post, that I want to tell you among the first that he has decided, for very good and sufficient reasons — For a year or so past he has found the duties too onerous for a man of his years, and at times of exhaustion, mental and physical, he has been on the point of giving it up, but recovering himself, has held on, very naturally anxious to do so, for many reasons — This was a good turning-point, completing 19 years of faithful service, during which there has not been a single complaint against him — So he retires honorably of his own accord — He has a great deal unfinished work at his desk which will keep him occupied, which together with his love of books will prevent time from hanging heavy on his hands — and I hope he will get into a more quiet frame of mind, exempt from the daily invitation of over work — . . .

Hoping you are both well, and with our united good wishes for a very happy year

believe me affectionately

your cousin

Lizzie S M

ABRAHAM LANSING TO MELVILLE¹¹⁵

Aug 19 [188]6

Dear Mr Melville:

I enclose herewith my check as administrator with the will annexed of Fanny's estate¹¹⁶ for \$3019.⁵⁰/₁₀₀ in payment of the legacy of \$3000. left you by the will, and interest thereon from July 10, 1886.

Will you please sign & return to me the enclosed receipt & duplicate, & oblige

Yours very truly

Herman Melville Esq

Abraham Lansing

4 E 26th St N. Y.

Adm. &c

¹¹⁵ From Lansing's letterpress copybook.

¹¹⁶ The estate of Melville's sister, Frances Priscilla Melville.

ABRAHAM LANSING TO MELVILLE¹¹⁷

Sep 28 [188]6.

Dear Mr Melville:

I send herewith checks payable to the order of Mrs Melville & Bessie¹¹⁸ in payment of the legacies bequeathed to them by Fanny's will less 5 per cent tax, under the act of 1885, & with interest from July 10, 1886. Also a receipt & duplicate for their signatures, to be returned to me.

Stanwix¹¹⁹ had a legacy of \$100. under the will. Is there any administration upon his estate?

Will you kindly deliver the checks & return me the receipts executed & oblige

Yours very truly

Herman Melville Esq

Abraham Lansing

ABRAHAM LANSING TO MELVILLE¹²⁰

Oct 15 [188]6

My Dear Sir:

I have yours of 12th inst with receipt & duplicate for legacies also a memorandum directing pay^t of Stanwix legacy to you.

I send herewith my check as adm^r & c for \$96.⁴⁹/100 in payment of the legacy to Stanwix less the legacy tax, & with interest.

In the absence of testamentary disposition & of claims of creditors you are entitled to the legacy as next of kin. I therefore make the payment to you assuming these facts without the form of administration.

Yours very truly

Herman Melville Esq

Abraham Lansing

MELVILLE TO ABRAHAM LANSING

N. Y. March 16 [1889]

Dear Mr. Lansing:

I have your first note, and the telegram following it, and also your second note.

Enclosed herewith you have the duplicate receipts and the first cheque.¹²¹

The first receipt }
I have destroyed. }

Truly yours

H. Melville

¹¹⁷ From Lansing's letterpress copybook.

¹¹⁸ Melville's wife and daughter, Elizabeth.

¹¹⁹ His deceased son, Stanwix Melville, had given his father power of attorney to collect his share in his aunt's estate, under date of "San Francisco California Feby 14th 1886."

¹²⁰ From Lansing's letterpress copybook.

¹²¹ This letter and Melville's receipt to Lansing are complementary, relative to the residue interest of Melville in the liquidated estate of his sister, Frances Priscilla, who had died in 1885. See letters of that year, *supra*.

MELVILLE'S RECEIPT FOR INHERITANCE

(Enclosure)

Received New York, March 16, 1889 from Abraham Lansing as administrator of the will annexed of the will of Priscilla F. Melville deceased Eleven hundred twenty three & ⁷⁹/₁₀₀ dollars ————— being my portion under said will the remainder of the estate of said Priscilla F. Melville and paid to me in accordance with the decree of the Surrogate of Saratoga County N. Y. entered at the final judicial settlement of the accounts of said administrator on the March 1889.

And in consideration thereof and of One dollar I do hereby release and discharge said administrator from all liability to me for and on account of said sum of \$1123⁷⁹/₁₀₀

Herman Melville [Seal]

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(Extract)

Surf Hotel

Fire Island, N. Y.

June 30 — 1889

Dear Kate,

Herman came down with me on the 15th and staid a few days — since that, me, Fanny & children have spent a week here, all enjoying it very much — I expect to be here all this week, & part of next — and I hope you will write me.

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(Extract)

New York Jan. 8, 1891

Dear Kate,

I have been thinking for some days of writing you — because I don't want you to hear in any other or exaggerated way that Herman has been pretty ill for the last week or so — when he had a turn of dizziness or vertigo in the night — which the Doctor feared might eventuate in a serious way — but now I am glad to say that his strength which seemed to leave him in one night has gradually returned and he is improving every day — he has not been out yet or even down stairs, but the Doctor there seems to be no reason why he should not entirely recover and be as well as before — He has not been very well all winter & has had a bad cough —

but that is nearly gone now — and he has enjoyed this clear cold weather going out every day & taking long walks — the day before he was taken sick he walked $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in a bitter cold air — I think it was too much for him — . . . I have been so much absorbed with Herman who requires a good deal of attention — . . . affectionately

your cousin

Lizzie

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

New York May 28 1891

• My dear Kate,

I was very glad to hear from you and have been trying for the few days past to get from Herman what he might chance to know of Uncle Herman by leading the conversation that way — He says that Uncle went to G[ansevoort] at an early age to take charge of the lumbering interests there for his father — to whom he thinks, but is not sure that a large wooded tract of land was *granted* to him for his military services — the land in question having belonged to a tory and was confiscated — there was also a saw mill to put the timber into marketable shape — On one of his first visits to New York he met and married Catherine Quackenboss who cheerfully went to this wilderness and lived the rest of her life — She was a very eccentric character as no doubt you have heard — All her property was sunk in the great fire of 1835 — and Uncle H[erman] never dared to tell her — but paid her her usual dividends out of his own means — The date of their marriage you could get from Mr Greenleaf (or, from the old family bible — which I suppose is extant) & perhaps other matters of interest —

His military career was only that of the State militia as far as H[erman] knows — and he has never seen any printed notice —

I should think Kate Hoadley might have interesting records that came from Gansevoort — you know what quantities of papers &c Helen found there —

I hope you are quite well — Herman is tolerably well but not strong — Fanny's children have been having the measles — Eleanor, just in the midst of moving — Frances was sick here — both mild attacks — and all well now — but Harry has been laid up with them, and is not out yet — We expect to go to Fire Island in June — Herman also, as he is not well enough to be left alone — I suppose he will get very impatient but I have to go there for nose cold

In haste with love

Lizzie

MELVILLE'S DEATH AND MRS. LANSING'S DIARY, 1891

Herman Melville died, on September 28, 1891, of heart failure, at his home, East 26th Street, New York City, and on the afternoon of the 30th his mortal remains were interred in Woodlawn Cemetery. He was survived by his wife and daughters, one unmarried.

The following entries are taken from Mrs. Lansing's diary:

Monday, September 28th, 1891

Rec'd *Telegram* telling us of *Cousin Herman's* death — he died *this morning*.

Tuesday, September 29th

Went down town & had notices of Cousin Herman Melville in "Ev'g Journal," "Tribune," & "Press & Knickerbocker."

Wednesday, September 30th

Left by 5 o'clock Packed own bag & after a hurried breakfast left Albany by the N.Y. M. Train for N. Y.

Arrived on Time . . . went up 104 E. 26th Saw Cousin Herman in his last

Thursday October 1st.

Out all day Went to see Cousin Lizzie & Bessie Kate Hoadley & Minnie
Left by the 6 o'clock Train

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(Extract)

105 East 18th st

New York April 14. 1897

Dear Kate

Herman's book that you ask about — I suppose you mean "Israel Potter
fifty years Exile" — was published first as a serial in Putnam's Magazine —
afterward in book form by George P. Putnam N. Y. in 1855 — but is now
out of print —

The paper copy of Typee, Omoo, Moby Dick & White Jacket gotten up last
year has had a very good sale — and recently I have had overtures from a
London publisher to produce them in German — notwithstanding that they were
written in that language half a century ago — so I am pleased to see how they still
sell — Shall we not see you here some time or other? We are all keeping well so
— Bessie joins me in love.

Affectionately your cousin

Lizzie

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(*Extract*)

36 East Housatonic st

Pittsfield - Mass. Sept. 5 - 1897

My dear Kate,

I send you with this a pamphlet in which I have collected & had printed the memorial articles that Mr Smith wrote for the "Evening Journal" here,¹²² soon after Herman's death — they were scattered in poor type through many numbers of the paper where they would never be read and I thought they ought to be rescued from oblivion for the family and a few near friends, if only for Mr Smith's sake — It had been his intention (taking these articles for a basis) to rewrite the whole thing and enlarge it to a small book similar to his "Poet of the Hills" (Dr Holmes) — but he did not live to accomplish it — He was Herman's ardent admirer and most faithful friend for these many long years, and I value him for that and regret to lose him from the Pittsfield circle alas now so sadly diminished — . . .

You ask for a photograph of Herman — but I have not one here to send — I will gladly give it to you, if you will come for it when I return home — then you can take your choice from the two I have — we expect to be home about 10th Oct. . . .

Bessie joins me in love and kind wishes — Please let me know if the pamphlet reaches you safely, if only by postal —

Affectionately your cousin

Lizzie S. M.

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(*Extract*)

105 East 18th st

New York May 26 — 1901

Dear Cousin Kate,

I am very glad to hear from you once more and feared you had altogether forgotten us — I have thought a great deal of you in your loneliness and sorrow with sincere sympathy — your husband was one of a thousand, commanding the respect and affection of all who knew him —

¹²² A pamphlet of thirty-one pages, with a gray paper cover title: "Biographical Sketch of Herman Melville. 1891." On p. 1 the heading is: "Herman Melville. Written for the Evening Journal, Pittsfield, Mass., by J. E. A. Smith, 1891."

end you two carte de visite photos of Herman, and want you to take your
 e and send me back the other — The one of my father is rather a poor
 graph¹²³ from William Hunt's painting in the Salem Court House for which
 is requested to sit, or rather stand, by the Essex Bar — supposed to be
 ssing the Jury — It was considered one of Hunt's master-pieces, and went
 making the reputation which Hunt afterwards acquired — . . .

m always glad to hear from you, and wish I could see you once in a while —
 e joins me in love —

Affectionately your cousin

Lizzie

ZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
 LANSING

(*Extract*)

105 East 18th st

New York Nov. 30 — 1902

Dear cousin Kate,

nd you a few of Herman's autographs and can give you more if you wish —
 sed also are the dates that you asked for —

nd also a photograph of the Arrowhead dining room (formerly the kitchen)
 led from a carte de visite size — It is not quite as large as the one that you
 ed from my old desk — because that I had especially made for Herman at con-
 ble cost — at a time when I could only afford to have the one example — I
 rgotten when you were here that I had some of this size — . . .

ought of you with much sympathy on Thanksgiving day — that day of sad
 eries to so many of us who mourn the friends and companions who have
 before — . . . My dear old pastor Dr Bellows used to quote to me the
 t to "Be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain," and I often
 of it — . . .

Affectionately your friend and cousin

Lizzie S. M.

ZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
 LANSING

(*Extract*)

105 East 18th st

New York Dec 1902

Cousin Kate,

photograph that I sent you *was* the old dining-room at Arrowhead, as
 n and dated on the back — I have not an unmounted one, but I think this

his photograph of Judge Shaw is reproduced in this contribution, *supra*.

could be "floated off" the card — I don't think I have any *better* autographs than those I sent you of Herman — but I enclose a few more, as you wish — . . .

A gentleman in the Public Library in Boston has written me about a book called *New York Old & New* — its story — streets and landmarks by R. R. Wilson — in which besides a great deal of interest relating to the earlier history of the city there appears very honorable mention of Herman and his writings — I have not seen it yet, but shall get it from the Library — . . .

Affectionately your Cousin

Lizzie

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING
(*Extract*)

105 East 18th st

New York April 5th 1903

My dear Kate

The only photograph (which I do not like to spare) of Herman's father¹²⁴ is from an oil painting taken in Paris in 1810 — and in giving something of value to each of the family after Herman's death, I gave that to Lottie Hoadley — . . . I have no doubt that you could get a photograph from that, if you wish by writing her — But Herman never thought it a very good portrait — . . .

Affectionately your cousin

Lizzie

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING
(*Extract*)

Braeburn,

Jefferson, New Hampshire

August 31st 1903

My dear Cousin Kate

. . . About the photo of Herman's father, I will certainly loan it to you to be copied when I get back to New York where of course it is now — the only condition will be that I have it again promptly, as [it] is the only one I have — it was taken from an oil painting done in Paris in 1810 — but Herman never thought it was a good likeness — . . .

Affectionately your cousin

Lizzie S. M.

¹²⁴ This portrait is reproduced here in the Melville Family Group.

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(*Extract*)

49 Mt Vernon st

Boston Mass Oct — 5th 1903

Cousin Kate,

. We expect to return to New York this week Saturday (10th) and then I
send you the photograph of Herman's father, which you can have copied for
collection — And also the other ones (small ones) that you wish — . . .

Bessie joins me in love — Affectionately your

Cousin Lizzie

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(*Extract*)

105 East 18th st

New York Oct. 18 — 1930 [*sic* for 1903]

Dear Kate

I came home a week ago yesterday, and I have not forgotten your request
for the photograph of Herman's father — but I have been so busy trying to
get my rights and in living order that I have not had a moment to attend to it —

I will send it to you now to have copied, and will ask you to return it as soon as
you have done with it, as it is the only one I have — I send also a carte de visite
of Herman, as you wished, but I have not one of myself — . . . Bessie joins
me in love and good wishes —

Affectionately your cousin

Lizzie M.

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(*Extract*)

105 East 18th st

New York Nov. 9 — 1903

Cousin Kate

The photograph came safely, and in answer to your question — about the left
— what he holds is a seal on the end of a watch fob — one that was his
father's — then Gansevoort had it and after his death mother Melville gave it to
Frank — and now I have given it to Frank Hoadley as the only male repre-

sentative of the family, who will value it accordingly — I hope he may yet have a son to inherit it — How I wish there was another Herman in the family to whom I could will the old tankard —

Did you want another small photograph of Herman — you know I sent you one — and I have none of myself except one of a cabinet size¹²⁵ which I will send if you wish and will let me know — . . .

Affectionately your

Cousin Lizzie

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(*Extract*)

105 East 18th st

New York Jan 15, 1904

Dear Cousin Kate

I was agreeably surprised last evening on receiving the box with the ancestral portraits — most excellent copies of the original paintings — and I thank you very much for your kindness in sending them to me — I hope they will long outlive my time and that future generations may value them as I do — . . .

Bessie joins me in love and all good wishes, and again thanking you for your very valuable gift, believe me —

always your affectionate

Cousin Lizzie S. M.

I suppose you received the photographs that you asked for — I sent them at once —

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING

(*Extract*)

105 East 18th st

New York Jan 27 — 1904

Dear Cousin Kate,

I have been trying to get some of the missing dates that you asked for, through my brother, but have not succeeded — . . .

The photographs of the grandparents have given us all great pleasure — I have hung them over the old Gansevoort sideboard as a befitting position, and upon which they seem to look down with benignity as upon an old friend — And again I thank you very much for sending them to me — . . .

Affectionately your cousin

Lizzie S. M.

¹²⁵ This cabinet portrait of Mrs. Melville is reproduced on our frontispiece.

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING
(*Extract*)

105 East 18th st

New York Feb. 16 — 1904

dear Kate

Thank you very much for the data of the Gansevoort portraits — they will
ease their value and interest for those who come after us . . .

Affectionately your

Cousin Lizzie M.

ELIZABETH SHAW MELVILLE TO CATHERINE GANSEVOORT
LANSING
(*Extract*)

105 East 18th st

New York March 22^d — 1904

Cousin Kate,

The "Frank Melville" the notice of whose death you enclose in your note, is no
tion of Herman's family — And I *did* see "Hawthorne and his Circle" with
atrocious portrait — and was so incensed at it that I *did* write (some week
to Julian H. asking him to withdraw it from future editions, or let me
wish him with a good one to replace it — but I have had no reply — I wish
would write to him, as a near relative, and say that it is distressing to the
family, and they would be thankful to have it eliminated — . . .

Also objected to some statements in the text — as for instance Herman mak-
ing of his "aimless journeys" abroad and told him that whatever j[o]urneys
made were with a definite purpose — It is exasperating to have such things
all as facts —

The "Times" in its London letter announces that a new edition of Herman's
works is in preparation by John Lane — a well know[n] publisher in London —
if you see anything about it, please let me know —

About dates, I have given you all you asked for, except those of the place and
of Herman's grandmother, who was Priscilla Scollay — will bear it in mind,
supply them when I can — . . .

Affectionately your cousin

Lizzie M.

NEWS OF THE MONTH

EXHIBITION OF THE FIFTY ENGLISH BOOKS OF THE YEAR

AN exhibition of the fifty best English books of the year opened on July 26 in Room 112, the small exhibition room on the first floor of The New York Public Library, and will continue through August 23.

For the past seven years the American Institute of Graphic Arts has made an annual selection of the fifty most attractively printed American books of the year. This year for the first time a similar selection of the fifty English books of the year has been made by the First Edition Club of London. Through an interchange of courtesies between this club and the Institute, sets of the hundred books chosen by the two associations are being shown simultaneously in London and in New York. Thus for the first time it is possible to examine and compare the best workmanship of the presses of the two countries in a single exhibition. The production of beautiful books and their appreciation by the public should be greatly stimulated by this venture.

GIFTS

DURING the month of July, 1929, there were received as gifts 5,750 volumes, 15,063 pamphlets, 18 maps and 58 prints. Among the many interesting items were the following:

PRIVATELY PRINTED AND LIMITED EDITION BOOKS: From Dr. Daniel M. Hoyt came a copy (one of 250 privately printed) of "Poems and Prose" by Rosamund Hoyt. Philadelphia, 1928. From Miss Kathryn Hulme came an autographed copy (one of 30 privately printed) of her "How's the road?" San Francisco, 1928. Mr. Curtis Stuart Laughlin gave a copy (one of 200 privately printed) of his "It also rains in Paris." Portland, 1928. From Mr. M. L. Parrish was received a copy (one of 66 privately printed) of Lewis Carroll's "Tour in 1867," printed from the original manuscript in Mr. Parrish's library. Philadelphia, 1928. From Mr. R. A. F. Penrose, Jr., came a copy (reprinted for private circulation) of his "The early days of the Department of Geology at the University of Chicago." From Mr. J. Vaughan Merrick, of St. George's School, came a copy of "St. George's Chapel" (one of 600 copies privately printed). Boston, 1928. Professor Thomas Job presented a copy (one of 377 copies printed) of his "Cyn Annwn (The Hounds of Hell)." Illustrated with woodcuts by Dorothy Kurtzman. Minneapolis, 1928.

GIFTS FROM AUTHORS: From Charles Z. Coffin, "Letters and Confessions of a Retail Merchant," Kansas City, 1929; from Claude D. Curtis, "Three Quarters

Century of Martha Washington College," Bristol, Tenn., 1928; from Dr. George Van Ness Dearborn, a collection of twenty-five reprints of his medical articles and monographs; from Mrs. Dora Harvey Develin, "A Journal of a Voyage from Philadelphia to Cork in the Year of Our Lord 1809 Together with a Description of a Sojourn in Ireland, by Margaret B. Harvey, with a Supplement by Grand-daughter Dora Harvey Develin," Philadelphia, 1915; from Miss Mary Simmons Dowse, "A Little Book of Poesy from my Garden" (autographed copy), Los Angeles, 1928; from Mr. Walter L. Dunham, "Banking and Industry in Michigan," Detroit, 1929; from Mr. Martin Henry Fenton, "Scientific Method of Bullfrog Culture in Connection with Muskrat Farming" [n. p., n. d.]; from Mr. John Finley, Jr., "Thalia or A Country Day. A Masque" (autographed copy), Boston, 1929; from Msgr. Germain Formica, "Il Congresso Eucaristico Internazionale di Chicago," New York, 1928; from Mr. William Amory Gardiner, "Groton Myths and Memories," Groton, 1928; from Mr. René Glotz, "A History of Gré" (autographed copy), Paris, 1928; from Mr. Edward John Hanzlik, "Trees and Forests of Western United States," Portland, 1928; from Mr. E. G. Loe, "Playing the Game," London, 1924; from Miss Mabel F. Noyes and Minna B. Noyes, "West Methuen of Long Ago" (autographed copy), [n. p., 1929]; from Mr. Jesse Leonard Rosenberger, "In Pennsylvania-German 1928-1929," Chicago, 1929; from Dr. Rudolph Schuller, three monographs on the Indians of Central and South America; from Mr. G. Butler Sherwood, "A General Analysis of the Present International Economic Position of Mexico," Washington, 1929; from Mr. Francis Borgia Steck, "The Jolliet-quette Expedition, 1673" (autographed copy), Quincy, 1928.

AMERICANA: From Mrs. Charles S. Fairchild, the seal of Colonel John Linckoln to accompany his "Journals," New York, 1879, previously presented; from Professor Robert Francis Seybolt, a manuscript "Book for the Entry of Schools in the Town of Westchester, Agreeable to an Act of the Legislature of the State of New York, Entitled: An Act for the Encouragement of Schools Passed the 11th of April, 1795."

GENEALOGY: The following volumes came as gifts from their authors: "The Gentry of Kingston-on-Hull." By Mr. M. Jackson Crispin, Lancaster, 1928; "The Family Records Compiled by Julia M. Roys and L. I. Dodge," Oxford, 1909; "Records of the Colonial Forebearers — Descendants — Kinsmen — Childhood Friends and Schoolmates of the late Lucinda Earle Patton Highland." By Scotland G. Highland [n. p., 1929].

MUSIC: From Mr. Louis Wetzler came a miscellaneous collection of 149 pieces of bound and unbound instrumental music, including compositions of Beethoven, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Gounod, Max Bruch and others.

PRINTS: From Doubleday, Doran and Company came an etched portrait of Hugh Walpole by Anne Goldthwaite; from Mrs. Alexander W. Drake, "Jüngling" by Muhrman, engraved on wood by H. Veltin; from Mr. George Wharton Edwards, his insignia for the Hall of Fame; from Mr. J. J. Lankes, four of his woodcuts.

COLLECTIONS: Among the collections received were the following: Mr. Andrew De Melik presented seventeen bound and unbound volumes of fiction, children's books, etc.; an interesting collection of 68 bound and unbound Turkish and other volumes came from Mr. G. Y. Ishkanents; from Mrs. Bentley Nicholson came a miscellaneous collection of 353 books, magazines and pamphlets, including fiction, poetry, reference books, music and other material in English, French, German, Spanish and Russian; from Mrs. L. Pfeifer, a miscellaneous collection of 89 items, including bound volumes, pamphlets, periodicals, engravings and a map; from Mr. Henry Scott, a very interesting collection of 79 books and pamphlets and 139 periodicals on checkers, draughts and other games; a miscellaneous collection of 109 pamphlets in English, French, German and Dutch, some of them by the donor, was presented by Mr. Gustave L. van Roosbroeck.

ADDITIONS AND USE OF THE LIBRARY DURING JULY, 1929

DURING the month of July, 1929, there were received at the Library 28,047 volumes and 16,451 pamphlets. (These include the additions to both Reference and Circulation Departments.) The number of volumes issued for home use by the Circulation Department was 763,232.

The total number of recorded readers in the Reference Department, Central Building, was 121,996, no record being kept of the use of books on the open reference shelves. The estimated number of readers and visitors at the Central Building was 257,600 — arrived at by adding 15 per cent to the incomplete count made by the doormen (224,000).

NEW PERIODICALS

- Akronian.** Akron, O. Monthly.
Published by the Akron Chamber of Commerce.
- Segna di Mondadori.** Verona, Italy. Monthly.
- neine jüdische Zeitung.** Wien, Austria. Weekly.
- Epsilon Pi** quarterly. Philadelphia. Quarterly.
Official publication of Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity.
- orientální.** Prague, Czechoslovakia. Published a year.
Published by Československý Orientální Ústav v Praze.
- is.** Berlin, Germany. Monthly.
- atea.** Roma, Italy. Fortnightly.
- Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores. Boletín. La Paz, Bolivia. Bimonthly.
- Sch-Zünder.** Stuttgart, Germany. Monthly.
- ngs Institution.** — Institute of Economics. Pamphlet series. Washington, D. C. Irregular.
- every month.** Memphis, Tenn. Monthly.
- k.** New York. Monthly.
- of Municipal Research,** Toronto. The paper. Toronto, Canada. Irregular.
- ier.** Paris. Monthly.
Published by Société sequana.
- an Engineering Standards Association.** C. E. S. A. bulletin. Ottawa, Canada. Quarterly.
- ia.** Buenos Aires, Argentina. Monthly.
Published by Centre Catala.
- ký obzor.** Prague, Czechoslovakia. Monthly.
Published by Spolek československých inženýrů.
- Barcelona,** Spain. Monthly.
Published by Consulate General of Chile, Barcelona, Spain.
- ipino italiano.** Rivista mensile. Toronto. Monthly.
- national d'études sociales et politiques.** La quinzaine planétaire. Paris. Monthly.
- so sudamericano ferrocarriles.** — Comisión internacional permanente. Boletín. Buenos Aires. Semi-annual.
- Current economic briefs.** Chicago, Ill. Irregular.
- Documents.** Paris. Monthly (10 nos. a year).
- The Dotac.** New York. Monthly.
Published by Downtown Athletic Club of New York City.
- Eskoloth.** Chisinau, Rumania. Irregular.
Text in Hebrew.
- Essen (city),** Germany. — Statistisches Amt. Statistischer Vierteljahresbericht. Essen, Germany. Quarterly.
- Falcographs.** New York. Quarterly.
Originally under title *Offset*.
- France.** — Office National des Mutilés et Reformes de la Guerre. Bulletin. Paris. Monthly.
- Gornyi institut.** Zapiski. Leningrad, SSSR. Irregular.
- Greece.** — Statistikon Grapheion. Meniaion statistikon deltion. Athens, Greece. Monthly.
— Trimeniaion parargema tes statistikes tes diacheiriseos tes dikalosynes. Athens, Greece. Quarterly.
- The Handicrafter.** Jamaica Plain, Mass. Bimonthly.
- The Hindu.** Illustrated weekly. Madras, India. Weekly.
- The Home modernizor.** Chicago, Ill. Monthly.
Published by National Building Industries, Inc. Home Modernizing Bureau.
- Hungary.** — Országos Gazdaságstatisztikai és Konjunktúrakutató Bizottság. Közleményei. Budapest, Hungary. Irregular.
- International Confederation of Intellectual Workers.** C. I. T. I. bulletin. Paris. Irregular.
- Jewish current events.** Philadelphia, Pa. Weekly (Oct. to May).
Published by Associated Talmud Torahs of Philadelphia.
- Die Kunstauktion.** Berlin, Germany. Weekly.
- La Plata.** — Universidad nacional. Extensión universitaria (conferencias). La Plata, Argentina. Irregular.
- Library service news.** New York. Irregular.
Published by Columbia University School of Library Service.
- Ligue nationale contre le taudis.** Bulletin. Paris. Monthly.

Literarische Berichte aus dem Gebiete der Philosophie. Erfurt, Germany. 4 to 6 times a year.

Live Poultry Transit Co. Service bulletin. Chicago, Ill. Monthly.

Published by Live Poultry Transit Company. — Research and Extension Department.

MS. New York. Monthly (10 nos. a year).

Published by Columbia University. — Home Study English Department.

Madagascar et Dependances. Bulletin économique. Documentation — études. Tananarive, Madagascar. Irregular.

Mainz (city), Germany. — Stadtbibliothek. Monatsblätter. Mainz, Germany. Monthly.

Mexico. — Secretaría de Industria, Comercio y Trabajo. Gaceta de la propiedad industrial. Mexico. Monthly.

Mezőgazdasági kutatások. Budapest, Hungary. Monthly.

Mid York. New York. Monthly.

Published by Mid York Club, Inc.

Der Moment. Warsaw, Poland. Daily.

Le Moniteur de la papeterie française. Paris. Semi-monthly.

Official organ of Syndicat des fabricants de papier et carton de France et du Syndicat professionnel des fabricants de pâtes à papier, de celluloses et de leurs dérivés, de France et des colonies françaises.

Moskva. Chicago, Ill. Monthly.

Published by Russian Center of Chicago, Ill. Text in Russian.

Naivelt. Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Monthly.

Text in Yiddish.

National Astrological Association. Journal. Los Angeles, Calif. Quarterly.

National beauty shop. New York. Monthly.

New York (state). — University: Education Department: Examination and Inspection Division. Division bulletin. Albany, N. Y. Irregular.

New York daily investment news. New York. Daily.

New York magazine. New York. Monthly.

Les Nouvelles yougoslaves. Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Weekly.

Obrana. Scranton, Pa. Semi-weekly.

Le Opere ei giorni. Genova, Italy. Monthly.

Our Chicago. Chicago, Ill. Irregular.

Published by Chicago, Ill. — Public Works Department.

Ozar Hachaim. Deva, Rumania. Monthly.

Text in Hebrew.

Patent might. St. Louis. Semi-monthly.

Photofreund. Berlin, Germany. Semi-monthly.

Official organ of Verband deutscher Amateurphotographen Vereine Gau Brandenburg.

The Pine cone. Ridgewood, N. J. Quarterly. Published by Bergen County Hospital.

Proletarische Sozialpolitik. Berlin. Monthly. Organ der Arbeitsgemeinschaft sozialpolitischer Organisationen.

Public Health Federation. Bulletin. Cincinnati, O. Irregular.

The Queel. London, England. Irregular.

Published by Chelsea School of Art.

Quito. — Universidad Central. Anales. Quito, Ecuador. Quarterly.

Rassegna economica delle colonie. Roma, Italy. Monthly.

Published by Ministero delle Colonie.

Formerly issued under title *Bollettino di informazioni economiche*.

The Realist. London, England. Monthly.

La Revue bulgare. Sofia, Bulgaria.

Irregular.

Revue de l'Égypte ancienne. Paris. Irregular.

Published by Société française d'égyptologie.

La Revue marxiste. Paris. Monthly.

Revue d'optique. Paris. Monthly.

Published under the auspices of the Institut d'optique théorique et appliquée and the Syndicat de la précision, de l'optique et des industries qui s'y rattachent.

Revue technique du monopole des tabacs. Galata-Constantinople, Turkey. Quarterly.

Published by Administration générale du monopole d'état des tabacs. — Section technique agricole.

St. John's analyst. Brooklyn, N. Y.

Bi-monthly.

Published by St. John's College. — School of Accounting, Commerce and Finance.

Socialist Party. — National Office. Weekly press news. Chicago, Ill. Weekly.

Structural Engineers Society of New York. Bulletin. New York. Monthly.

Tambour. Paris. Monthly.

Der Tanzlehrer. Berlin. Monthly.

The Texas outlook. Fort Worth, Texas. Monthly.

Published by Texas State Teachers Association.

This month. Pittsburgh, Pa. Monthly.

The Three circles. Detroit, Mich. Monthly.

Toledo topics. Toledo, O. Monthly.

Troubadour. San Diego, Calif. Monthly.

Verband deutscher Amateurphotographen Vereine. Verbandsnachrichten. Berlin, Germany. Semi-monthly.

Der Versichertenvertreter. Leipzig, Germany. Monthly.

Vierteljahrsschrift für Wappen-, Siegel- und Familienkunde. Berlin, Germany. Quarterly.

INTERESTING RECENT ADDITIONS

INDUSTRIES AND INDUSTRIAL ARTS

Aircraft year book. New York: Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America, Inc., 1928. xv, 484 p. illus. 8°. \$5.25. **VDS (121)**
Comprehensive, amply illustrated record of the various phases of aeronautical progress (mainly American) for 1928, with statistics, directories, a chronology, of planes and engines, and other matters of interest.

American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. Geophysical prospecting. Papers and discussions presented at meetings held at New York, February, 1928, and Boston, August, 1928. New York: Published by the Institute, 1929. 676 p. illus. 8°. **VH (117)**

Each of these twenty-seven authoritative papers covers a subject in general; the others are classified under geology, magnetic, gravity, and seismic methods.

This book is not a textbook of geophysics by any means. Much of the text, in fact, is beyond the ready comprehension of any save the physicist and the competent mathematician. The layman who has heard of geophysical prospecting and would like to investigate further will do better to write to the Bureau of Mines at Washington and ask for the two bulletins issued by the government on the subject. With the physicist or engineer, the case is different, and it is in that the Institute has prepared the volume." — *Hubbell in Engineering and mining journal*, 1929, 16, 1929.

Butler, J. A. V. The fundamentals of physical thermodynamics. Part I, Elementary theory and applications. London and New York: The Macmillan Company, 1928. 47 p. diags. 12°. 6s. **PLD (119)**

Early one half of the book treats of the galvanic electrode potentials, concentration cells and active and electrolysis. Author is Lecturer in Chemistry at the University of Edinburgh.

Have tried to present the subject in a logically simple, yet simple form, having in mind not only the student who intends to specialize in physical chemistry, but also that class of chemistry students which has only a moderate knowledge of mathematics and little acquaintance with mathematical methods." — *Preface*.

Reviewed in *Nature*, Jan. 12, 1929.

Challenger Society. Science of the sea, an elementary handbook of practical oceanography for travellers, sailors, and yachtsmen. Prepared by the Challenger Society for the Promotion of the Study of Oceanography. Originally edited by G. Herbert Fowler, 2nd edition edited by E. J. Allen. New York: Oxford University Press, American Branch, 1928. xxiii, 502 p. illus. 8°. \$6.00. **PRS (117)**

Several of the chapters of this comprehensive work (published in 1912) have been rewritten and considerably revised to include recent developments in the results and methods of oceanography. of the air, water, tropical shore collecting, flora, fauna, equipment, preservation of specimens, and matters of practical interest to the amateur.

Codd, Mortimer A. Practical primary cells. New York: Isaac Pitman and Sons, 1929. viii, 127 p. illus. 12°. \$1.50.

VGH (121)

From the numerous dry and wet cells which have been evolved the author describes only those which can satisfactorily be used, with data of their performances. There is also a long list of obsolete voltaic cells with their distinguishing characteristics.

"Although he takes for granted a certain familiarity with electrical nomenclature and theory, the author does not expect greater knowledge than the ordinary physics course supplies the average chemist with. Consequently the research worker, conscious of his electrical limitations, yet needing guidance on the practical choice of a cell for some specific task, will find this little book of considerable service." — *Industrial chemist*, May, 1929.

Collins, A. Frederick. Aviation and all about it. An extremely simple and thoroughly practical exposition of all the various branches of aviation. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1929. xvi, 260 p. illus. 12°. \$2.00. **VDY (121)**

Instructions for making small-scale models, and a brief history of aviation precede accounts of how the airplane and the engine are made and how they work, of the art of flying, instruments, airports and airways, the various uses of airplanes, and aviation records.

*** Dunn, E. J.** Geology of gold (South Africa, Australia, New Zealand). London: Charles Griffin and Co., Ltd., 1929. x, 303 p. illus. 8°. 35s. **VHR (117)**

Based upon an experience of over fifty years, the author describes occurrences and presents his theories of ore genesis. Contains numerous plate illustrations showing specimens, microphotographs, and mine plans and sections.

"Its value is as a personal record of observations and impressions rather than as a guide to current theories on the formation of gold ores." — *J. W. Gregory in the Mining magazine*, May, 1929.

Also reviewed in the *Engineer*, April 5, 1929.

Folwell, A. Prescott. Sewerage: the designing, constructing and maintaining of sewerage systems and sewage treatment plants. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1929. x, 399 p. 10. ed. illus. 8°. \$4.50. **VDI (121)**

For notice of 9. ed. see *New technical books*, 1923, v. 8, p. 21. The work has now been reset and rewritten to bring it down to date.

"The tenth edition of this famous book possesses all the characteristics that have made it one of the most popular and valuable technical books ever published... The illustrations are exceptional in clearness and in their ability to bring out exactly the points that should be emphasized." — *Public works*, New York, March, 1929.

*** Foster, P. Field, and J. F. BAKER.** Differential equations of engineering science. New York: Oxford University Press, American Branch, 1929. vi, 184 p. 8°. \$4.25. **OIE (117)**

Intended for engineers who use mathematics as a tool and still more for those who require a knowledge of higher mathematics to keep abreast of theoretical advances in their work. Deals only with the directly

Industries and Industrial Arts, continued.

useful types of equations and excludes, so far as possible, geometrical ideas and interpretations.

"Covers the ground well and will be found particularly useful for reference purposes." — *Engineering*, June 21, 1929.

Hatch, F. H. An introduction to the study of ore deposits. London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1929. 117 p. illus. 8°. 7s.6d. **VHB (117)**

An historical survey of the theories of ore genesis precedes concise accounts of ore formation by various means, including chemical precipitation in seas, lakes, and swamps.

"Dr. Hatch has the admirable knack, invaluable to students, of summarizing a subject with a masterly sense of proportion, and of stimulating an interest which leads many of his readers to more detailed studies ... It is a pleasure to recommend it cordially to all who are beginning the study of ore deposits and their genesis." — *Arthur Holmes in the Mining magazine*, May, 1929.

Hathaway, Kenneth A. A. C. radio guide. A practical treatise on alternating-current radio tubes and sets and dynamic loud speakers. Chicago: American Technical Society, 1929. 121 p. illus. 8°. \$1.50. **TTF (121)**

Concise and amply illustrated. Besides the topics named in the title there are sections on the conversion of d. c. sets to those using a. c. tubes; trouble shooting; and short wave reception. Four well known a. c. sets are described in detail.

"It has been the aim to present the subject in such a manner that radio service men and those not so well acquainted with electrical and radio engineering may have a clear view of the ordinary principles involved in modern radio receiving sets." — *Page 7*.

*** Lane, W. T., and J. H. ROBERTS.** The principles of subsidence and the law of support in relation to colliery undertakings. London: Alfred A. Knopf, Ltd., 1929. xiii, 319 p. illus. 8°. 18s. **VHH (117)**

Part I gives an historical review of the various theories of subsidence and brings together scattered references to present-day ideas. Part II deals with the legal side of the question and from the British standpoint. Bibliographies at the end of each part.

"The book, though admittedly inconclusive, marks a stage that will be appreciated." — *Colliery guardian*, March 28, 1929.

Moyer, James Ambrose. Steam turbines, a practical and theoretical treatise for engineers and students, including a discussion of mercury and gas turbines. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1929. ix, 557 p. 6. ed. rev. & enl. 8°. \$4.50. **VFK (121)**

The author of this well-known work, first published in 1908, states that in the present edition special attention has been given to the calculations for the designing of steam turbines, and that new sections have been added on bleeder or extraction turbines, the variation of steam consumption with the age of turbines, shaft and diaphragm packings, and the casing and multiple exhaust ends of large turbines for high-pressure conditions. The mathematics are not difficult.

"The edition would have been improved by a more vigorous policy of deletion and modernizing." — *World power*, June, 1929.

Also reviewed in *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, April, 1929; *Shipbuilding and shipping record*, June 13, 1929.

*** Munk, Max M.** Fundamentals of fluid dynamics for aircraft designers. New York:

The Ronald Press Company, 1929. xii, 198 p. diags. 8°. \$8.00. **VDY (121)**

Well-diagramed work requiring a knowledge of calculus.

"The short, simple formulas that are coming into use by aircraft designers can be employed to far better advantage by an understanding of the fundamental principles from which they have been evolved. The manner of presenting herein the fundamentals of fluid dynamics as a digest of the theories that have withstood the test of time and trial, has in view the usefulness particularly for teachers, students of aeronautical engineering, and the designers of airplanes and airships." — *Preface*.

Niles, Alfred S., and J. S. NEWELL. Airplane structures. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1929. xi, 413 p. diags. 8°. \$5.00. **VDY (121)**

Applies the fundamental principles of structural theory to practical airplane design; and includes considerable data on allowable stresses in various materials, and on allowable loads on standardized airplane parts. Intended for students well grounded in the mechanics of materials and in calculus. Problems at the chapter endings. Authors are professors in Leland Stanford, Jr., University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology respectively.

*** Preston, Thomas.** The theory of heat. 4th edition edited by J. Rogerson Cotter. London and New York: The Macmillan Company, 1929. xix, 836 p. illus. 8°. \$8.50. **PDB (117)**

This comprehensive well-known work by the former Professor of Natural History in University College, Dublin, was first published in 1894. In this edition the editor has devoted his attention "almost exclusively to an endeavour to bring the book up to date in the department of experimental determinations of thermal data." The domain of the quantum theory is beyond the scope of the book.

"The secret of the continued popularity of Preston's work is no doubt to be found in the fact that the book was written as a labour of love in the interests of true scientific education, instead of being merely compiled to suit an arbitrary standard or syllabus, adapted to a particular type of student, or a special limit of mathematical attainment. The object has been to give a comprehensive survey of the development of the theory of heat from an historical point of view." — *From a review of the 3d edition, 1919, in Nature, April 22, 1920.*

Ratcliffe, J. A. The physical principles of wireless, with a foreword by E. V. Appleton. London: Methuen and Company, Ltd., 1929. viii, 104 p. illus. 12°. 2s.6d. **TTF (121)**

This clear and concise presentation of wireless principles for physicists and engineers omits constructional details of apparatus. Requires some grounding in mathematics and electricity.

Rice-Oxley, M. K., and W. V. SHEARER. Astronomy for surveyors. London: Methuen and Company, Ltd., 1929. ix, 208 p. illus. 12°. 8s.6d. **VDE (121)**

Practical work, with sufficient theory, explaining the principal methods of making astronomical observations and computations. Includes a chapter on the determination of longitude by wireless time signals. Authors are associated with the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington.

"This small book, of some 200 pages, may be recommended as a text-book on the subject, as extending the range of observations the nature of which most surveyors understand, and as providing them also with a basis for and instruction in observations of other kinds." — *Engineer*, March 15, 1929.

ries and Industrial Arts, continued.

ing, Frank W. The marine motor. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1929. illus. 12°. \$2.00. **VHXL (121)**

...ing and rewriting of the first edition (1915) resulted in practically a new book. Takes account of developments, including the outboard motor Diesel engine. There are chapters on fuel, operation, constructional details, ignition, cool-lubrication, operation, troubles, and remedies. Simple, and well diagramed, the work should be the novice.

BRITISH PRINT-MAKERS

...ly to run over the names of the few artists listed in this list of recent additions to the Library on British print-makers brings to mind a deep of activity and interest. Baxter, Legros, Rowlandson, — what contrasts are suggested! — after all, is the feature always emphasized the subject of prints is approached, — the rich offered to the lover of art.

ER, George. Baxter colour prints, pictures presented by H. G. Clarke. London: ... Bros., 1920-21. 121 f., 122-142 p. 4°. **MDG**

...H in 12 parts; covers bound in at back. ... 21 are numbered rectos; versos contain letter-companing plates.

BROCKHURST, Gerald L. G. L. Brockhurst, A. E.; introduction by Malcolm C. Salaman. London: "The Studio," Limited; New W. E. Rudge, 1928. 1 p.l., 9(1) p., 12 col'd pl. 8°. (Modern masters of etching.) **MDG**

GILES, William. W. Giles, president of the of the Graver Printers in Colour. Introduction by Malcolm C. Salaman. London: "The Studio" Ltd., 1928. 6 p., 8 mounted col'd pl. sq. f°. (Masters of the colour print.) **MDG**

LEGROS, Alphonse. Alphonse Legros; introduction by Malcolm C. Salaman. London: "The Studio," 1926. 10 p., 12 mounted pl. obl. (Modern masters of etching. no. 9.) **MDG**

LEGROS, Alphonse. A catalogue of the etchings and lithographs by Professor Alphonse Legros (1837-1911), in the collection of Frank E. Bliss. With a preface by Campbell Dodgson... London: Printed for circulation by O. Anacker, Ltd., 1915. 175 p. illus. 4°. **MDG**

LEGROS, Alphonse. A catalogue of paintings, drawings, etchings and lithographs, by Alphonse Legros (1837-1911), in the collection of Frank E. Bliss... in appreciation of the paintings and etchings, by Charles Ricketts... and a preface to the etchings and lithographs, by

Campbell Dodgson... London: Grosvenor Galleries, 1922. 79 p. illus. 4°. **MDG**

LORD, Elyse. Elyse Lord. London: "The Studio," Ltd., 1927. 6 p., 8 col'd pl. f°. (Masters of the colour print. [no. 1.]) **MDG**
Text signed: Malcolm C. Salaman.

McBey, James. James McBey, introduction by Malcolm C. Salaman. London: The Studio, 1924. 7 p. illus. ob. 4°. (Modern masters of etching. no. 2.) **MEM**

PALMER, Samuel. Catalogue of an exhibition of drawings, etchings & woodcuts by Samuel Palmer and other disciples of William Blake, October 20 - December 31, 1926, with an introduction and notes by A. H. Palmer... London: Published under the authority of the Board of Education, 1926. vii, 87 p. illus. 8°. **MDG (Palmer)**

ROWLANDSON, Thomas. Thomas Rowlandson: his drawings and water-colours, by A. P. Oppé. Edited by Geoffrey Holme. London: The Studio, Ltd., 1923. viii, 32 p., 96 pl. 4°. **MDG**

SMITH, John Raphael. J. R. Smith. London: "The Studio," Ltd., 1927. 6 p., 8 mounted col'd pl. sq. f°. (Masters of the colour print. [v. 2.]) **MDG**

Introduction by Malcolm C. Salaman.
Studio. Special number. 1927.

STRANG, William. A. R. A. [By Sir F. G. Newbolt.] London: G. Newnes, Ltd. [1907.] 19 p. illus. 4°. **MDG**

Half-title: The great etchers.

On cover: The master etchers.

Printed by Ballantyne & Co., Ltd., at the Ballantyne Press, London.

UNWIN, Francis Sidney. Francis Unwin; etcher and draughtsman, with a memoir by Campbell Dodgson... Edited by John Nash. London: Fleuron Ltd., 1928. 9 p., 7 pl. 4°. **MDG**

WALCOT, William. William Walcot, R. E. Introduction by Malcolm C. Salaman. London: "The Studio," Ltd., 1927. 9 p., 12 mounted pl. obl. 4°. (Modern masters of etching. no. 16.) **MDG**

Studio. Special number. 1927.

WALCOT, William. Architectural water-colours & etchings of W. Walcot, with an introduction by Sir Reginald Blomfield... London: H. C. Dickins, 1919. x, 139 p. illus. f°. **MEM**

Contains articles by M. C. Salaman, W. G. Newton, W. R. Lethaby, Ian Ivor, Max Judge, Marius Ivor and W. G. Keith.

CIRCULATION STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 1929

BRANCHES	CIRCULATION		NEW REGISTRA- TIONS	VOLUMES ACCES- SIONED
	HOME USE (VOLUMES)	READERS OF REFERENCE BOOKS		
MANHATTAN				
Central Building:				
Central Circulation	48,343		878	376
Children's Room	2,033	2,068	32	119
Extension Division*	63,593		3,055	1,510
Library for the Blind	3,486		14	293
East Broadway, 33	7,816	1,514	91	197
East Broadway, 192	21,147	2,588	204	523
Rivington street, 61	12,961		124	863
East Houston street, 388	15,431	1,577	160	1,312
Leroy street, 66	7,719	1,489	116	83
8th street, 135 Second avenue	10,287	1,398	100	582
10th street, 331 East	20,055	895	211	688
13th street, 251 West	7,516	1,963	171	59
23rd street, 228 East	7,178	3,165	114	194
23rd street, 209 West	11,536	2,460	207	169
36th street, 303 East	6,785	1,241	97	37
40th street, 457 West	6,179	739	63	130
50th street, 564 Lexington avenue	6,739	1,883	67	106
51st street, 742 Tenth avenue	7,614	194	90	433
58th street, 121 East	9,630	750	247	383
58th " 121 " Music Library	2,478	2,607		237
67th street, 328 East	10,966	2,177	147	366
69th street, 190 Amsterdam avenue	11,461	1,359	191	356
77th street, 1465 York avenue	12,953	2,078	103	671
79th street, 222 East	14,556	2,034	179	226
81st street, 444 Amsterdam avenue	13,662	2,621	201	217
96th street, 112 East	20,669	1,282	227	487
100th street, 206 West	16,683	807	291	207
110th street, 174 East	18,944	836	241	405
115th street, 203 West	13,383	1,254	158	258
124th street, 9 West	12,066	1,522	174	200
125th street, 224 East	6,064	443	100	32
125th street, 518 West	15,808	2,086	313	586
135th street, 103 West	10,266	1,969	203	402
145th street, 503 West	18,687	1,404	224	228
St. Nicholas avenue, 1000	17,083	1,448	183	279
179th street, 535 West	22,014	3,543	257	211
THE BRONX				
140th street, 321 East	16,843	3,595	277	454
Morris avenue, 910	14,913	1,942	215	208
160th street, 761 East	26,876	3,436	326	1,573
Southern Boulevard, 877	39,772	4,768	4,178	12,525
168th street, 78 West	13,963	2,111	224	150
169th street, 610 East	29,356	3,923	417	709
176th street and Washington avenue	30,756	3,543	465	250
Bainbridge avenue, 2556	36,808	3,014	47	303
Kingsbridge avenue, 3041	7,559	1,158	102	173
RICHMOND				
St. George	8,400	1,525	100	27
Port Richmond	12,374	1,649	202	675
Stapleton	7,510	3,691	97	90
Tottenville	4,311	340	39	112
Totals	763,232	88,089	15,922	30,674

* In addition 23 books were read at agencies of the Extension Division.

PRINCIPAL DONORS IN JULY, 1929

	VOLS.	PMS.		VOLS.	PMS.
Ido, L. R.	1		Goncharov, Leonid Vasil'yevich (4 periodicals)	1	
an Association for Old Age			Hanzlik, Edward J.	1	
ity	2		Highland, Scotland G.		1
an Social Registry, Inc.	6		Hoyt, Dr. Daniel M.	1	
ia. Commonwealth of. Gov-			Hulme, Miss Kathryn	1	
ent Printer	4		Hungary. A Felsőház Háznapyi Hivatala	11	
ore & Ohio R. R. Company.	12		India. Bombay Presidency. The Chief Secretary to the Govern- ment	6	1
Mrs. Fred.	1		Indochine. Government General	1	
of Trade of German-Ameri-	18		Ishkanents, G. Y.	27	41
Commerce (41 periodicals)			Istituto Coloniale Fascista	1	
Archivo Nacional dos Es-	3	13	Jellicoe, E. G.	1	
Unidos do Brasil			Job, Prof. Thomas		1
Serviço Geologico e Mine-	6	2	Laboureur, J. E. (2 prints)		1
ico do Brasil			Lankes, J. J. (4 prints)		1
a. Bureau Général de la			Laughlin, Curtis Stuart		1
ptique			Lehman, S. Clyde	1	
Veritas	10		McKenzie, William P.		2
an Institute of Mining and			Memel. Industrie- und Handels- kammer	5	3
lurgy	5		Mercer, Rev. Philip	1	
Emancipation Centenary			Mohamed, Abdul	1	
mittee	1		Moses, P. R.	81	
Biblioteca Nacional	18	8	National Trade Journals, Inc.	1	
Charles Z.	1		Nicholson, Mrs. Bentley (14 pe- riodicals)	254	85
M. Jackson	1	1	Noyes, Miss Mabel F., and Miss Minna B.		1
Claude D.	1		Overseas Statistics (88 periodi- cals)	12	4
lovakia. Ministerstvo So-			Parrish, M. L.		1
Péče	1	3	Penrose, R. A. F., Jr.		1
lovakia. Zemědělská rada			Pfeifer, Mrs. L. (1 map; 10 peri- odicals; 39 engravings)	23	16
rn, Dr. George Van Ness		25	Pfeiffer, Curt G.	2	
ik, Andrew	13	4	Rosenberger, Jesse Leonard	1	
er Metallarbeiter - Ver-			St. George's School		1
nationaler Handlungsge-	31		Schuller, Dr. Rudolph		2
Verband	4	21	Scott, Henry (139 periodicals)	10	69
Mrs. Dora Harvey		1	Seybolt, Prof. Robert Francis		1
Loyal I.		1	Sherwell, G. Butler	1	
ay, Doran & Company (1			Steck, Francis Borgia, O. F. M.	1	
g, Arthur	1		Steinbach, Abraham W.		1
Lucy Simmons (Miss)		1	Thiallet, Francis		2
Mrs. Alexander W. (1			Thomas, Dr. William I.	1	
, Walter L.	1		U. S. S. R. Svir Hydroelectric Power Plant Works	25	3
, Legacion del	6	3	Van Roosbroeck, Gustave L.	2	107
s, George Wharton (1			Venezuela. Ministerio de Rela- ciones Exteriores	1	
Dr. Gustavus A. (7 peri-		3	Washington Heights Taxpayers Association	37	
Magistrat	6	1	Wetzler, Louis	9	140
d, Mrs. Charles S. (1 seal)					
Martin Henry		1			
harbour Master's Office		7			
Tourist Bureau	7				
John, Jr.		1			
, Msgr. Germain	1				
William Amory	1				
ené	1				

PUBLICATIONS OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

(Now in Print)

HISTORY AND GUIDES

History of The New York Public Library, by H. M. Lydenberg. 1923	\$2.00
Handbook of The New York Public Library	.25
Central Building Guide	.05
The New York Public Library; How It Was Formed, What It Is Doing	Free
Questions About Your Library (General Information about the Library)	Free
For Sightseers. Central Building	Free

PERIODICALS

Annual Report of The New York Public Library. (A limited number are given free upon request.)

Bulletin of The New York Public Library. Published monthly. Chiefly devoted to the Reference Department. Bibliography, news of the Library, reprints of manuscripts, descriptions of new accessions. \$1.00 a year; current single numbers for 10 cents. Back numbers at advanced rates.

Branch Library Book News. A selected list of new additions to the Circulation Department, with other lists and articles. Published monthly, except in July and August. For sale at the Branches and at the Inquiry Desk. 2 cents a copy; 25 cents a year, postpaid.

New Technical books. A selected list of books on industrial arts and engineering, recently added to the Library. Published quarterly. 25 cents a year, postpaid.

Municipal Reference Library Notes. Published weekly except during July and August, for circulation among the officials and employees of the City of New York. Price: \$2.00 a year; 5 cents a copy. Apply at Room 512, Municipal Building.

LIST OF BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY RELATING TO VARIOUS TOPICS, TEXTS PRINTED FROM MANUSCRIPTS OWNED BY THE LIBRARY, ETC.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

	PRICE		PRICE
Alice in Wonderland; the manuscript and its story. 1928	.10	Automobile Tires. A list of references. 1923	.10
Almanacs, A list of New York, 1694-1850. 1921	1.00	Avery Collection, Handbook of. 1901. 84 p.	.50
American Historical Prints, Early Views of American Cities, etc. 1927	.50	Avery Collection, Handbook of — Supplement: Additions of Prints, 1901-1920. 1921	.15
American Interoceanic Canals. A list of references. 1916	.30	Avesta and Romani, by Albert Thomas Sinclair. 1916	.05
Armenia and the Armenians. A list of references. 1919	.30	Beaumarchais, Editions of, in New York City. 1925	.15
Article of Faith, An, by Hiller C. Wellman. 1919	.05	Behind the Magician's Curtain — An Exhibition of Books and Prints Relating to Conjuring and Magic — by John Mulholland (illustrated) 1928	.05
Assyria and Babylonia. A list of references. 1918	.45	Berlin and the Prussian Court in 1798. From a ms. journal of Thomas Boylston Adams. 1916	.15
Astor Library, Catalogue of the. 8 volumes. Sewed. Per volume	5.00		

	PRICE		PRICE
rs, Dr. John Shaw, Memorial Meeting in honor of the late. 1913 . . .	.10	Geology, Mineralogy and Palæontology of New Jersey, List of works on. 1916	.15
Planning and Allied Topics, Select list of works relating to. 1913 . . .	.15	Ginsburg's Massoretic Bible. 1928 . . .	.05
n, General George, Calendar of Messages & Proclamations of, 1777-81. 1927	.25	Greenwood, John, an American-born Artist. 1927	.25
Photography. 1924	.75	Gypsies in Carniola and Carinthia, by Albert Thomas Sinclair. 1917 . . .	.05
bus. Letter of Columbus on the discovery of America. Facsimile of the pictorial edition, with a new and a complete translation, and a complete print of the four oldest Latin editions. 1892. Cloth	.50	Gypsies of Monastir, by Rev. Lewis Bond. 1917	.05
ancement Addresses by Stephen H. and Carl B. Roden. 1924	.10	Henry George and the Single Tax. 1926	.50
ompensations, by Asa Don Dickinson. 1922	.05	Historical Printing Club, Publications of the. (List and prices furnished upon application.)	
of the U. S. Brig <i>Argus</i> in 1813. Journal of Surgeon James Inderwick. 1877	.10	Historical Prints and Early Views of American Cities. Catalogue of exhibition. 1917	.05
ation of Independence, Exhibition commemorating the 150th anniversary of the adoption of. 1927 . . .	.25	Holcroft, Thomas, A Bibliography of. By Elbridge Colby. 1922	.60
ration in Book Materials, Causes and Prevention of. 1929	.15	Holt, John—Printer and Postmaster. 1920	.10
Development of Scenic Art and Large Machinery (Revised, with Additions) 1928	2.50	The Hornbook. 1927	.15
Charles, His Life as Traced by His Works, by C. W. Cavanaugh. Fifty American editions of the works of Charles Dickens, by H. L. Gar and R. W. G. Vail. 1929 . . .	.15	Hudson, Henry, The Hudson River, Robert Fulton and Steam Navigation, List of prints, books, manuscripts, etc., relating to. 1909 . . .	.30
American Children's Books, 1682-1900. 1927	.05	A Hundred Years of Grand Opera in New York, 1825-1925. A record of performances. 1927	1.00
Library Development in New York State. By George Watson Cole. 1927	.10	The Illustrated Book. Notes on an exhibition. 1919	.15
Ancient. Sources of information. 1905	2.75	Illustrated Books of the Past Four Centuries. A record of the exhibition in 1919. 1920	.50
Collection of Mss., Prints, etc., Catalogue of. Sheets. 1900	5.00	Inks, Chemistry and Manufacture of. 1926	.75
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ade One-and-a-Half. June, 1929

ogue of Books for the Blind in the Moon
e. November, 1921; Supplement, Febru-
ary, 1928

ogue of Music for the Blind. Music Scores
the American Braille and New York
Print Types. Supplement

ogue of Music Scores in the Braille
e. July, 1922; Supplement, October,
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